

Soviets airlift food, fuel to Kabul

MOSCOW (R) — Scores of Soviet military transport planes and civilian aircraft are delivering food and fuel daily to Kabul where a rebel blockade has caused acute shortages in the Afghan capital, TASS said. The Soviet news agency also reported rocket and ground attacks by Afghan rebels against several Afghan cities and said residents of one area were helping the army to fight back. The airlift from Moscow started after roads linking Kabul with the south and east were cut off by rebels. The only remaining road to the north is often closed by snowdrifts and rebel attacks, TASS said. It said Soviet and Afghan soldiers Thursday distributed more than 40 tonnes of flour and rice and nearly 30,000 litres (6,600 gallons) of kerosene among hundreds of families. Several people have died from cold and hunger because of the shortages, TASS said. The rebels fired 200 rockets at the eastern city of Khost, killing and wounding many civilians and soldiers, it added. In the north, Afghan army troops repelled a rebel attack on the city of Kunduz, TASS said. "Self-defence detachments made up of local residents are strongly supporting government forces," it added.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية. الراي.

U.N. envoy to discuss Sahara conflict

ALGIERS (R) — A U.N. envoy has arrived in Algiers to promote a peace plan for Western Sahara amid optimism that a 13-year war between Morocco and Polisario guerrillas is almost over. "The peace process is advancing in a very positive manner... towards a just and lasting solution," the Algerian News Agency (APS) quoted envoy Hector Gros Espiell as saying on his arrival Thursday. Gros Espiell, a Uruguayan diplomat, arrived from a tour of Polisario refugee camps in Algeria. The guerrillas have sought independence for Western Sahara, a former Spanish colony, since 1976. Diplomats said Algeria, for years Polisario's main backer, would tell the U.N. envoy its proposals for a face-saving peace formula. Gros Espiell, on a 12-day North African tour, earlier held talks with officials in Morocco and Mauritania. Two weeks ago Morocco's King Hassan met a Polisario delegation in Marrakesh in the first talks between the two sides. Both said they were a success. Gros Espiell will end his tour in Bamako, capital of Mali.

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Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasbi and Minister of Industry and Trade Hamid Tabbaa welcome North Yemeni Deputy President and Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Al

Al Hussein, U.N. aides discuss Mideast conflicts

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein spoke on current efforts being made to end the Middle East conflicts and referred to the active role which U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar plays within the framework of his international responsibilities.

King Hussein was speaking at a meeting in the Royal Court with two U.N. envoys who conveyed to him a message from Perez de Cuellar.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, which reported the audience, did not reveal the contents of the message.

It said that the two envoys paid tribute to King Hussein's efforts to establish peace in the Middle East.

The meeting was attended by Prime Minister Zaid Rifai and Jordan's Ambassador to the United Nations Abdullah Salah. The two envoys, Jean Claude Aime and Giandomenico Pico, who were due to leave Amman Friday, were earlier received by the prime minister in the presence of Abdullah Salah.

They reviewed developments in the Middle East region, with special attention to the Arab-Israeli conflict, the Gulf situation, and Perez de Cuellar's role in settling the two regional conflicts.

Israel loosens firing rules, closes all West Bank schools

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israel Friday authorised troops to fire plastic bullets at Palestinians burning tyres and blocking roads and ordered all schools in the occupied West Bank closed indefinitely because of protests, Israeli officials said.

A senior defence source said the new easing of firing orders meant non-commissioned officers could fire plastic bullets not only at those throwing stones but also at anyone blocking roads.

West Bank schools, attended by 300,000 Palestinians, were closed for several months last year and only reopened in November.

Suspected collaborator killed

In further West Bank protests Friday, Palestinians shot dead an Arab suspected of collaborating with Israeli occupation authorities at the village of Atil near Tulikarem, Israeli sources said.

Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin's new harsh policy, which also allows troops to demolish the homes and close the

shops of protesters, has led to record numbers of Arab casualties in the occupied territories.

At least 37 Palestinians were wounded in West Bank clashes Thursday and 14 protesters have been killed by Israeli gunfire in the past nine days.

Palestinian human rights groups have said that school closures are illegal under both local and international law, including the 1949 Geneva Convention which protects civilians under military occupation.

In the West Bank, merchants shuttered their shops for a third straight day Friday to protest an upsurge in Palestinian deaths blamed on tougher army policies that allow troops to open fire more freely.

In the Gaza Strip Friday, two Palestinian teen-agers were reported shot and wounded at Jaba-

liya Refugee Camp.

It confirmed the death of the suspected collaborator in Atil.

The victim in Atil, Ahmad Jeradat, 36, was killed at about 8 p.m. Thursday with a pistol shot in the eye, Arab reporters said.

They said soldiers immediately imposed a curfew on the village. Jeradat owned a store selling military government forms needed by Palestinians wishing to travel overseas.

After the killing, troops raided Atil and ordered boys and men between the ages of 12 and 40 to report to the village school for questioning, the reports said.

Three residents were arrested. A second suspected collaborator, Mohammad Irtut, 18, died at Ramallah hospital Friday, hospital officials said. Irtut was shot in the head during a Jan. 12 attack in the central market of the West Bank city of Nablus.

More than a dozen Palestinians suspected of cooperating with Israel have been killed since the beginning of the uprising in December 1987.

Referring to the new open-fire policies, Rabin said officers or specially designated soldiers may fire plastic bullets to apprehend

stone throwers or Palestinians setting up roadblocks of stones and burning tyres.

In the past, only an officer could fire plastic bullets in self-defence or to incapacitate ring-leaders of violent protests.

Rubber-coated steel pellets, introduced last year, may be fired by all soldiers, Israel Radio quoted Rabin as saying.

Plastic and rubber bullets were introduced as a supposedly less lethal alternative to standard lead ammunition, but in the past week alone, nine of 14 Arab teen-agers killed by troops were shot by plastic or rubber bullets.

The latest death occurred Thursday when 18-year-old Mohammad Dahaise was shot "after he was identified as an inciter" during protests in the Gaza's Shati refugee camp.

The Jerusalem Post newspaper quoted Palestinian sources as saying he was shot in the back of the head. Israel Radio said troops used a rubber bullet but other reports said a plastic bullet killed Dahaise.

His death and those of the two suspected collaborators brought to 365 the number of Palestinians killed in the uprising.

N. Yemeni premier arrives today

AMMAN (Petra) — North Yemen's Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Al Iryani arrived here Friday ahead of economic talks between the two countries.

Iryani and Economy, Supply and Trade Minister Abdul Wahab Mahmoud Abdul Hamid, are members of a high-powered delegation to be headed by North Yemeni Prime Minister Abdul Aziz Abdul Ghani.

Abdul Aziz Abdul Ghani is due here Saturday for a three-day meeting by the joint Jordanian-North Yemeni Higher Committee to be co-chaired by the prime ministers of Jordan and North Yemen.

Officials at the Ministry of Industry and Trade said the committee will discuss cooperation between the two countries in

cultural, economic, labour, health, social development and educational fields.

Iryani said in a statement that the higher committee will finalise arrangements for joint cooperation and action in various fields, and will open new scopes for Jordanian-North Yemeni cultural, economic and educational integration.

The two Yemeni officials were welcomed by Deputy Prime Minister Marwan Al Qasbi, Minister of Industry and Trade Hamid Tabbaa and North Yemen's Ambassador to Jordan Ali Abdullah Abu Lahoum.

A team of North Yemeni officials has spent the past week here holding meetings with officials from the Ministry of Industry and Trade led by Secretary General

Mohammad Saqqaf to pave the way for the joint committee meetings.

On Thursday, the two sides discussed cooperation in public works and construction, labour, health and social development.

According to the officials, the higher committee will review the outcome of the preparatory committee talks and act on them.

Saqqaf in a statement upon the beginning of the meetings have said that Jordan was keen on maintaining cooperation with North Yemen and was willing to provide it with teachers and doctors to help it pursue its development process.

The higher committee last met in Sanaa in February 1988 and agreed on promoting mutual trade.

Mubarak optimistic about Bush's efforts

CAIRO (AP) — President Hosni Mubarak predicted that the United States under George Bush will take "positive and advanced steps" to settle the Arab-Israeli problem.

In an interview with the Kuwaiti newspaper Al Rai Al Aam, Mubarak also said he expects Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir of Israel to agree "sooner or later" to an international peace conference on the Middle East, which he so far strongly opposes.

Mubarak said no power on earth, not even the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), can stop the uprising of Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza so long as Israel's occupation continues. Only a "just solution" to the Palestinian problem can halt the uprising, he said.

Egypt's Middle East News Agency (MENA) distributed the interview, and the afternoon newspaper Al Massa devoted Friday's front page to it. The news agency did not say when the interview occurred but said it will be published in Al Rai Al Aam on Saturday, the day after Bush's inauguration.

"I believe the new American President, George Bush, understands the Palestinian problem and has good intentions," Mubarak told Al Rai Al Aam's editor, Abdul Aziz Fahd Al Masaeed. The Egyptian leader said Bush is "keen" on the dialogue that opened in Tunisia last month between the United States and the PLO after its leader, Yasser Arafat, met U.S. conditions for talking with the organisation. In a

Bush takes over the helm

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — George Bush took his oath of office as 41st president of the United States Friday, saying he was taking over from Ronald Reagan at a time when "a new breeze is blowing" through the world.

The end of Reagan's remarkable, often tumultuous eight-year era and the dawn of Bush's day came at 12:03 p.m. (1703 GMT) as Bush was sworn in by Supreme Court Chief Justice William Rehnquist on the steps of the U.S. Capitol.

Thousands of onlookers cheered under gray skies at the open-air inaugural ceremony.

In a 20-minute address marking the 200th anniversary of George Washington's inauguration as the first U.S. president, Bush thanked a beaming Reagan as "a man... who has earned a lasting place in our hearts and in our history."

Then, attired in a dark blue pin-striped suit but hatless in gusty breezes that blew his hair into his face, Bush led the assemblage in prayer and proclaimed he was taking over "at a moment rich with promise."

"We live in a peaceful, prosperous time, but we can

make it better — for a new breeze is blowing, and a world refreshed by freedom seems reborn," he said.

As is customary in inaugural addresses, Bush stuck to broad inspirational themes and avoided specifics on the litany of problems that face him such as staggering federal deficits, pressures to cut military spending and raise taxes to reduce the debts, and priorities for his policies toward the Soviet Union, U.S. allies, the Middle East and other hot spots.

But he took care to stroke his "loyal opposition" in the Democratic Congress that will control his "honeymoon" period.

"A new breeze is blowing — the old bipartisanship must be made new again," he said. "To my friends — and yes, I mean friends — in the loyal opposition — and yes, I mean loyal — I put out my hand."

Moments after he finished, the ceremony ended in a simple sentimental moment that marked the shift from one era — Reagan's to another.

The 77-year-old outgoing president, bundled up in dark blue topcoat and white silk scarf, and wife Nancy, as ever in her trademark "Reagan red" coat,

PLO rejects Rabin plan

BAGHDAD, Iraq (Agencies) — The PLO Friday rejected a peace plan proposed by Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin and called on President George Bush to curb the Israeli crackdown on Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Ahmad Abdul Rahman, the Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO) chief spokesman, said in a statement that "it is the responsibility of the new U.S. administration to chain the hands of Israeli leaders so thirsty for bloodshed."

"Today, as George Bush assumes his constitutional powers, the PLO calls on the new U.S. administration to move to put an end to the terrible Zionist crimes against our people," he said.

Rabin Thursday unveiled a "personal programme" for a peace settlement, offering the Palestinians elections in exchange for ending a 13-month-old uprising.

Abdul Rahman said the PLO "strongly rejects the proposals which reflect Israeli leaders' insistence on the continuation of the occupation and violence."

"The stones of the uprising have thwarted all the Zionist schemes, foremost of which is administrative autonomy, and opened the door wide for a real peace based on a complete Israeli withdrawal from Palestinian lands and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state," he said.

"No to elections under occupation... No to the settlements. The Israeli army has no role in the Palestinian land," he added.

(Continued on page 3)

Engine falls off Boeing 737 in U.S.; no injuries reported

CHICAGO (R) — An engine fell off a Boeing 737 jetliner shortly after takeoff here Friday but the Piedmont Airlines plane returned safely to O'Hare Airport, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) said.

The engine fell into a field half a mile west of the airport. There were no injuries, the FAA said.

On Jan. 7 a 737 crashed in central England, killing 44 people. One of the engines on that British Midland Airways plane burned and broke up.

There was no immediate indication if the Piedmont plane and the British Midland craft were the same 737 model.

On Wednesday the FAA said it was ordering engine inspections for 300 Boeing 737-400 and Boeing 737-300 aircraft following the crash in Britain. The 737-400 is a new craft while the 737-300 is an older airliner.

The FAA said its airworthiness directive required inspection of the engine fire-warning system and the vibration monitoring cir-

cuitry on the eight 737-400s and 292 737-300s operated by U.S. airlines.

British authorities issued the recommendation as part of their investigation of the crash of the British Midland 737-400.

The FAA said it had not yet decided whether to follow a second British recommendation to increase the frequency of engine inspections until the cause of the British Midland crash is determined.

(Continued on page 3)

LATEST NEWS BRIEFS

Norwegian minister to visit Jordan

OSLO, Norway (AP) — Norwegian Foreign Minister Thorvald Stoltenberg will visit Jordan, Israel, Egypt, Syria and Tunisia on Jan. 24-30, his office said Friday. He planned to meet with Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat in Tunis, in the first government contact with the PLO chief. "It is important that we collect as much information as possible and also express Norway's own views about the current situation in the Middle East," Stoltenberg told members of parliament Thursday.

Somali president in Kuwait

KUWAIT (R) — Somali President Mohammad Siad Barre arrived in Kuwait Friday for a three-day official visit, during which he will confer with Kuwaiti Emir Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah on bilateral relations, Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) said. Siad Barre would also discuss with the Kuwaiti leader Arab and international matters and issues of mutual concern, KUNA said.

Karabakh boss retires

MOSCOW (R) — The Communist Party boss of Nagorno-Karabakh is retiring, Izvestia said Friday, following sharp attacks by his superiors on the "nationalistic" policy of leaders in the disputed region. Genrikh Pogoyan, 58, who strongly defended demands for Nagorno-Karabakh to be transferred from Soviet Azerbaijan to the neighbouring republic of Armenia, is retiring for health reasons, the government newspaper said. Pogoyan's name was not on a list, published by Izvestia, of members of a new Kremlin-picked committee ordered by the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet to replace local government in Nagorno-Karabakh.

Icebreaker reaches stranded scientists

MOSCOW (R) — A nuclear-powered icebreaker has reached a group of Soviet scientists stranded on a melting ice floe in the Arctic, TASS news agency said Friday. A first attempt Thursday was blocked when the ship, the Rossiya, was confronted by an impenetrable wall of ice. TASS said it made a detour and cut a path from the north to reach the scientists' research station on the floe. The ship was sent to the rescue Sunday after the floe under station "North Pole-28" was caught in a warm current north of Greenland and began drifting south and thawing.

6 die in Kansas City firebomb blaze

KANSAS CITY (R) — Six people, including an infant and two small children, were killed Friday when a firebomb was thrown through the window of a house here and quickly set it ablaze, police said. The fire occurred before dawn. Police said it is being investigated as arson and murder. Names of the victims were not released but fire department spokesman Harold Knabe said they appeared to be from two families.

U.S., S. Korea open talks on bases

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — Negotiations resumed Friday between U.S. and South Korean officials over the future of U.S. bases and revising agreements under which U.S. troops are based in South Korea. South Korean officials said issues raised included their call for the removal of U.S. military facilities from central Seoul to rural areas and a revision of legal regulations governing the status of American forces.

Tunisian team back from Libya

TUNIS (R) — A high-powered Tunisian team returned from Libya Friday but there was no immediate word on the results of their talks on joint projects. Prime Minister Hedi Baccouche, Foreign Minister Abdul Hamid El Seikhi, Interior Minister Cheddi Neffati and presidential adviser Habib Ammar spent two days in Libya to follow up agreements reached when Libyan leader Muammar Qaddafi visited Tunisia in December. The agreements cover employment for Tunisians in Libya, free trade across the border, the linking of the electricity grids, joint offshore exploration for oil and gas and Libyan finance for a road on the Tunisian side of the border.

New East-West accord 'to shake the iron curtain'

VIENNA (R) — Two years of tough negotiations on military detente, human rights and economic cooperation in Europe have ended with an agreement that Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze said had shaken up the iron curtain.

A charter agreed by 35 European and North American states to close the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) sets new standards on human rights obligations and launches a new set of talks on East-West troop cuts.

Addressing the conference's closing session Thursday, Shevardnadze said: "The Vienna meeting has shaken up 'the iron curtain', weakened its rusty supports, made new breaches in it, and sped up its

corrosion." He was referring to Winston Churchill's phrase to describe the ideological barrier that arose the continent when the East European states came under Communist rule after World War II.

Most of the foreign ministers who spoke in Vienna agreed with U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz that the conference document marked a "new beginning" for European detente.

But some old animosities lingered on.

A series of Western speakers criticised Czechoslovakia and East Germany for sending in police against demonstrators while the ink on the Vienna document was barely dry.

French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas, said such incidents "raise doubts about the will of some people, and if they were to re-occur, would show the fragility of the commitments undertaken."

The Czechoslovak and East German ministers retorted that such criticism was an interference in their internal affairs, while Romania said it planned to ignore those parts of the document it did not like.

On the last day of the conference, Shevardnadze announced that some Soviet short-range nuclear missiles would be withdrawn from Eastern Europe over the next two years.

He said the missiles would be pulled out and dismantled as part of the withdrawal of

50,000 troops and 5,000 tanks from East Germany, Czechoslovakia and Hungary promised by Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev last month at the United Nations.

The White House welcomed the move and later released a written statement saying: "Certainly insofar as this involves tactical nuclear weapons, it would be constructive and indicates the Soviet move toward withdrawing actual combat capability."

At the State Department, spokesman Charles Redman said "the Soviet Union in this case is following NATO's lead."

"Since 1979 NATO has unilaterally reduced the size of its nuclear stockpile in Europe by 2,400 warheads" so that

NATO's current arsenal is "at its lowest level in 20 years."

He also said NATO's unilateral reductions had not been matched by the Soviet Union, which has a larger number of modern nuclear systems in Europe than NATO.

NATO publicly welcomed the Soviet move but officials acknowledged it could complicate NATO's plans to modernise its own nuclear arsenal.

NATO diplomats in Brussels said they feared the missile pullout could complicate NATO plans to modernise its own nuclear arsenal.

They said it could sharpen a dispute between West Germany and its NATO partners over whether the alliance's own short-range nuclear forces should be negotiated away, as

Bonn would like, or modernised, as most of NATO would prefer.

The 23 NATO and Warsaw Pact states are due to begin talks on March 9 on reducing Europe's huge standing armies and vast arsenals of non-nuclear weaponry.

The talks, which will be linked to the CSCE, have been sardonically labelled CAFE (conventional armed forces in Europe) to honour their venue in the Austrian capital, famed for its coffee-houses.

The next European security conference will be in Helsinki in 1992. Before then, 10 linked conference in various countries will take place with the most controversial likely to be on human rights in Moscow in 1991.

Arab panel launches bid for Lebanon reconciliation

BEIRUT (Agencies) — The leaders of Lebanon's rival governments Friday received formal Arab League invitations to a reconciliation meeting in Tunis aimed at averting the formal partition of the war-divided country.

An official spokesman said the invitations were delivered by two special envoys of Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah, who heads an Arab League committee set up in Tunis last week to help settle Lebanon's political crisis.

The envoys, Abdul Mohsen Al Gaian and Ahmad Ibn Al Jasssem, handed over the invitations in separate meetings with the Lebanese leaders, the spokesman said.

The envoys met acting Prime Minister Salim Al Hoss in west Beirut and then drove across the green line dividing the city for talks with military commander Michel Aoun. They said later Aoun had accepted the invitation.

They also invited Parliamentary Speaker Hussein Husseini to the talks.

All have said they are ready to cooperate with the committee. Hoss and Husseini said they will fly to Tunis to meet the committee later this month.

A source, speaking on condition of anonymity, told the AP Aoun would consult his cabinet over the weekend to decide "the level of the Christian representation at the Tunis talks."

The Kuwaiti envoys held talks Thursday in Damascus with Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq Al Sharaa.

The rival governments emerged in September after deputies failed to elect a new president, plunging the country of 3.5 million people into its worst constitutional crisis.

The leftist Al Safir newspaper quoted a senior official at the Syrian Foreign Ministry as saying there would be no presidential election in Lebanon before political reform.

Meanwhile Iran and a senior Lebanese Muslim cleric appealed for an end to clashes between rival militias in Lebanon that have killed 142 people this year.

Ayatollah Hussein-Ali Montazeri, designated successor of Iranian leader Ayatollah Ruhollah

lah Khomeini, said the fighting "depresses any conscientious human being."

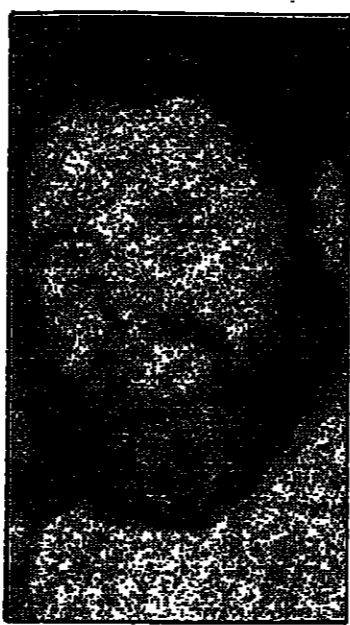
He forbade the pro-Iranian Hizbollah (Party of God) and Amal militias from further fighting, the Iranian news agency IRNA monitored in Nicosia said.

In Beirut, Sheikh Mohammad Mehdi Shamseddine, vice president of the higher Shi'ite council, said fighting between the militias in Beirut's southern suburbs and South Lebanon could spread to new areas if they did not make peace.

Shamseddine, who represented Amal in talks with Hizbollah clerics earlier this month, told a news conference both sides should agree to a proposal for the withdrawal of Hizbollah from the villages of Jubah and 'Ain Buswar in South Lebanon.

The villages are in Iqim Al Tufah district stretching from Sidon to Israel's self-declared "security zone." Hizbollah has launched attacks from there against Israel and its local militia allies.

In return the plan proposes that Amal would collect all heavy and light weapons from its members in the area and help Hizbollah fight Israel.



Terry Waite

BEIRUT (R) — British church envoy Terry Waite began his third year of captivity in Lebanon Friday. There were prayers for

Waite starts third year as captive

his freedom but few hopes of an early release.

The man who helped free 10, captives in six years vanished Jan. 20, 1987, at the start of another mercy mission.

Church services were held in London Friday with Runcie leading prayers for the three British hostages.

"We are still optimistic," said Waite's brother David. "We believe Terry will be back with us again before the next year goes by, as we all believe he is alive."

Diplomats and security sources said the early release of any of the 17 Western hostages was made less likely by battles raging between Shi'ite rivals Amal and Hizbollah in the suburbs and South Lebanon since Jan. 1.

"The Shi'ite community is completely absorbed by its problems, which makes it difficult for them to focus on other issues," Ramsay said.

Iraq hopes U.N. envoy will succeed in reviving talks

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz Thursday accused Iran of blocking peace talks in the Gulf war but said he was optimistic that a special United Nations envoy could get the negotiations going again.

Aziz said Iran's tactics so far had failed to break the stalemate in the peace talks and would not lead to a lasting peace.

U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar is sending Swedish U.N. Ambassador Jan Eliasson to Tehran and Baghdad next week in a bid to persuade the two sides to show more flexibility.

"They (the U.N. secretary general and his envoy) are bound to put things in their correct place, and make the Iranian side come to the negotiations with a practical approach for durable and comprehensive peace," Aziz said.

Aziz said Eliasson would arrive in Iran Jan. 23 and Iraq Jan. 27 to explore new ideas for resuming the U.N.-sponsored peace talks. He added that Eliasson will then consult with the U.N. secretary general to fix a date for the talks to restart.

Almost eight years of war stopped Aug. 20 when both Iran and Iraq accepted a U.N.-mediated

ceasefire, but peace talks in Geneva broke down five days later.

Two more rounds of talks failed to resolve the deadlock over troop withdrawals to pre-war borders.

U.N. Security Council Resolution 598, adopted in 1987, calls on Iran and Iraq to halt "all military activities" and honour the truce, withdraw their troops to pre-war borders, exchange around 100,000 prisoners-of-war and start peace talks.

Iraq holds 1,000 square kilometres of Iranian territory and says it will not pull out until Iran gives up its right to search ships in the Gulf for Iraq-bound war cargo.

Iran, which has not stopped any Iraqi ship since the ceasefire, insists that the troop withdrawals must be the next step in the peace process.

Aziz also said that Iran's continuing refusal to release sick and wounded Iraqi prisoners of war is a major obstacle to peace.

PoW release

The International Committee of Red Cross (ICRC) said Friday it would repatriate next week 255 Iranian prisoners of war (PoWs)

Iraq has offered to release.

An ICRC spokeswoman said in Geneva the 255 sick or wounded PoWs were being interviewed by Red Cross officials to determine whether they wanted to return home.

They would be flown to Tehran next Monday and Tuesday on two flights operated by Balair, a charter airline owned by Swissair.

Iraqi President Saddam Hussein promised to release the PoWs after a conference of Muslim clerics in Baghdad called for it as a peace gesture.

A plan to exchange all sick and wounded PoWs broke down after just three days in November when Iran failed to present the agreed number and Iraq retaliated by cutting the number of Iranians allowed home.

Iran claimed some of the Iraqi PoWs were either no longer sick or had sought political asylum.

The dispute halted the planned exchange of 1,600 sick and wounded prisoners.

The ICRC spokeswoman said the Geneva-based humanitarian body was trying to convince the two sides to resume a swap of sick and wounded, numbering 1500, and to start exchanging a total of 1000,000 prisoners captured during eight years of war.

Bush presidency seen as help to Arab cause

NICOSIA (AP) — Israeli and Arab commentators appeared to agree Friday that the U.S. presidential changeover from Ronald Reagan to George Bush was Israel's loss and the Arabs' gain.

In Israel the daily Hadashot said of Reagan's departure, "there is a feeling of parting from a friend the likes of which we have seldom, if ever, had in the White House."

It said that Israel must be prepared for Bush "to be less sensitive and more pragmatic in approaching the (Arab-Israeli) conflict... the new president is largely a question mark to the American nation and to us."

The English language Jerusalem Post said Bush "has never

had an emotional pro-Israel record like his predecessor, who has spoken of Israel with great warmth."

President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt said he believed Bush "understands the Palestinian problem and has good intentions."

In an interview with the Kuwait daily Al Rai Al Aam, Mubarak predicted that the new administration will "take positive and advanced steps that can serve the peace process in the Middle East."

Officials of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) expressed cautious optimism that Bush will treat the Palestinian cause with more understanding.

Kabul says 2 Pakistani helicopters shot down

ISLAMABAD (AP) — Afghanistan's official radio Thursday claimed government troops shot down two Pakistani helicopters ferrying "foreign advisers" and Afghan rebel leaders into Afghanistan's eastern Nangarhar province.

All those aboard were reported killed in Wednesday's incident, according to the broadcast monitored in Islamabad. No independent confirmation was available and Pakistan government officials could not be immediately reached for comment, although they have repeatedly denied Kabul charges of interference.

The report did not say how many people were killed or the nationalities of what it said were "foreign advisers."

It was Kabul's second claim of Pakistani helicopter intrusion into Afghanistan. The radio said last Saturday government troops shot down two Pakistani helicopters and destroyed an armoured column that penetrated into Afghanistan with Pakistani and rebel Mujahadeen forces Jan. 2.

Pakistan denied the claim and said the incident never happened.

Meanwhile, Western diplomats said waves of transport planes have begun ferrying Soviet troops out of Afghanistan in line with a United Nations-brokered accord signed last April.

Moscow agreed to withdraw more than 100,000 soldiers by Feb. 15 of this year. Half had left by last August.

The broadcast Thursday also reported 212 criminals, presumably anti-communist rebels, were killed in the past 24 hours in military operations throughout the country.

A rocket attack on a 315-bed hospital in Kandahar, Afghanistan's second largest city, injured five people, the broadcast said. It blamed insurgents backed by the United States.

Taba talks bogged down

TABA (R) — Israeli-Egyptian talks on the handover of the Red Sea beach resort of Taba were bogged down Friday with the Egyptians demanding a timetable for Israeli withdrawal.

The Israelis are dragging their feet, Nabil Al Arabi, chief Egyptian delegate to the talks which began here Thursday, told Reuters. "The most important issue is to fix a date for Israeli withdrawal."

Israel retained the 700-metre beachfront in 1982 when it withdrew from the rest of the Sinai peninsula under a 1979 treaty with Egypt, but an international arbitration panel last year held Cairo's claim to the area.

Israel's negotiators are demanding agreement on free access for Israelis to the area and a share in the ownership and management of the resort's luxury hotel and holiday village before setting a date to hand over the strip.

Israeli foreign ministry spokesman Alon Liel told reporters: "We've sharpened the positions on both sides. On some we agree, on most we have differences."

The United States is mediating in the dispute.

Americans strongly support PLO contacts

WASHINGTON — The American public strongly supports United States talks with Yasser Arafat and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), but entertains little hope that either the PLO or Israel will make the real concessions needed to achieve peace in the Middle East, the latest New York Times/CBS News Poll shows.

Sixty-four per cent of the 1,533 people polled by telephone from Jan. 12 thought 15 said they favoured meetings like the new PLO contacts, while 23 per cent said they opposed the talks.

But only 24 per cent of the public said they thought, "Yasser Arafat and the PLO want peace in the Middle East enough to make real concessions to the government of Israel," while 56 per cent said they did not think so.

When a comparable question was asked about the desire for peace in the Israeli government,

there were only statistically insignificant differences: 28 per cent said Israel wanted peace enough to make real concessions and 52 per cent said it did not. The margin of sampling error in the poll was plus or minus three percentage points.

The people who favoured United States-PLO talks were slightly more likely than those who opposed them to say they thought Israel would make serious concessions; 31 per cent of them foresaw such steps, compared to 25 per cent of those who opposed American-PLO meetings.

The opponents of American-PLO talks were particularly dubious about PLO intentions. Only six per cent believed that Mr. Arafat and his organisation would make real concessions. Among supporters of talks, 33 per cent said they anticipated such compromises — The New York Times.

6 Kuwaiti ships give up U.S. flag

WASHINGTON (R) — In another sign of peace in the Gulf, the Pentagon said Thursday six Kuwaiti tankers will haul down the U.S. flag and give up protection by American warships.

But five of the 11 Kuwaiti tankers offered protection from Iranian attack by President Reagan in mid-1987 will continue to fly U.S. flags for the immediate future, Defence Department

spokesman Dan Howard told reporters.

The announcement was another signal of reduced tensions in the region, where Iran and Iraq are under a ceasefire while negotiating terms of an end to the Gulf war.

Howard told reporters he did not know exactly when the six tankers would begin flying Kuwaiti flags again.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Venezuelan president-elect meets Arafat

BAGHDAD (R) — Venezuelan President-elect Carlos Andres Perez, who met Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat during a visit to Baghdad, said Thursday his country supported the Palestinians' right to their own state. But Perez, winding up a Middle East tour to promote an OPEC summit in 1990, said Venezuela would not at present recognise the independent state proclaimed by the Palestine National Council last November. "When the Palestinian state has its borders, we will recognise it," he told reporters. He said he told Arafat that Venezuela wanted the Arab-Israeli conflict solved through the United Nations and sought an end to violence. Perez said his country wanted a just solution recognising Israel's right to exist and the Palestinian people's right to their own state. "We recognised Israel's existence and boundaries from the beginning and we are in favour of a solution that will recognise a Palestinian state," he said.

Aden, Prague call for Red Sea pullout

ADEN (R) — Czechoslovakia and South Yemen, in a joint statement issued Friday, called for the withdrawal of foreign fleets and military bases from the Red Sea and the Indian Ocean. The statement was published in the government newspaper "14 October" following an official visit to Czechoslovakia by Yemeni leader Ali Salem Al Beidh. "The two sides agreed on the necessity of preserving the peace and security of the Red Sea and the Indian Ocean and call on the withdrawal of foreign fleets and the closing of foreign military bases in them," it said. The newspaper said Beidh, leader of the ruling Yemen Socialist Party, had signed protocols with Czechoslovakia on party cooperation, educational and cultural cooperation and trade during his three-day visit which ended Thursday.

Riyadh to host conference on hijackings

NICOSIA (R) — Saudi Arabia will host an international conference in February on how to prevent airline hijackings, the Qatar News Agency said Friday. It quoted Farouq Abdul Rahman Murad, head of the Riyadh-based Arab Centre for Security Studies and Training, as saying the conference would study the interior design of airplane bodies to find ways to prevent hijackings and the taking of hostages. The news agency, monitored in Nicosia, said a number of international experts and airline manufacturers would attend.

Turkey to open prisons for inspection

ANKARA (R) — Stung by harsh criticism of its human rights record, Turkey plans to open its prisons to inspection under terms of a Council of Europe convention against torture, official sources said Friday. The Justice Ministry has sent circulars to prisons, offices of prosecutors and detention houses telling them to prepare for inspections by teams under terms of the convention, they said. The government, which has applied for full European Economic Community (EEC) membership, signed the convention last year. It becomes effective in Turkey Feb. 1. Western diplomats welcomed the ministry's move but were sceptical about how long it might take Turkey to open its jails, housing some 60,000 inmates including an estimated 20,000 political prisoners, for inspection. The Foreign Ministry said this week Turkey was trying to improve its human rights image as part of an accelerated campaign to win full admission to the EEC.

Khomeini meets chosen successor

NICOSIA (R) — Iran's spiritual leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini had talks Thursday with his chosen successor, Ayatollah Hossein Ali Montazeri, and his chief of staff — the brother of an executed killer and subversive, Tehran Radio said Montazeri's chief of staff and son-in-law, Hadi Hashemi, attended the meeting although no details of the talks were given. In 1987 Hashemi's brother Mehdi was executed for murder, kidnapping and subversion. Mehdi Hashemi was widely believed to have been behind the leaks of Iran's secret arms-for-hostages deals with the United States in 1986. In November last year, Iran announced the execution for corruption of several other associates of Mehdi Hashemi, including Fathollah Najafabadi, a former member of parliament and revolutionary judge from Montazeri's hometown of Najafabad. Although both Montazeri and Hadi Hashemi disowned Mehdi Hashemi when the case was made public, the relationship has been used for attacks on Montazeri by his opponents. Montazeri, 65, holds no official administrative position but has representatives in universities and other institutions and his opinion on major issues is often sought, though not always implemented.

Pope meets with Israeli ambassador

VATICAN CITY (AP) — Israel's ambassador to Italy met Thursday with Pope John Paul II and discussed recent developments in the Middle East. The Vatican and Israeli embassy reported. The Vatican issued no comment on the meeting between the Pope and Ambassador Mordechai Drory. The Israeli embassy said in a statement that the two "had an exchange of views about the situation in the Middle East and about the developments aimed at encouraging the peace process in that area. The Israeli ambassador took the occasion to review the positions and the steps taken by Israel to put together a global peace plan and also emphasised that the Israeli government sets an absolute priority on the world search for peace." The ambassador expressed his satisfaction with the meeting which helped to clarify the respective positions, thereby increasing mutual comprehension.

Sudan rebels attack relief train

KHARTOUM (AP) — Sudanese rebels attacked a convoy of trains carrying relief supplies to a southern town, killing one civilian and four escorting soldiers, the government and armed forces said. Al Guwat Al Musalaha, the armed forces' bi-weekly magazine said soldiers escorting the trains killed 70 of the attacking rebels, and lost four of their own men. It also said 16 people were injured in the ambush by rebels of the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA). The convoy of four trains was able to arrive at its destination, Awail, 11 days after setting off from the capital, Khartoum, 1,000 kilometres away, the cabinet said.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME ONE
15:30 Koran
15:40 Programme review
15:45 Children programme
16:45 Arabic series
17:00 Educational programme
17:30 The Friends
17:40 Programme review
18:00 News summary
18:05 Message from Iraq
18:15 A play by Shakespeare
19:10 Local programme
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Local series
21:30 Programme review
21:45 Local programme
22:30 Arabic play
23:00 News in Arabic
23:10 Play continued

PROGRAMME TWO
18:00 A la Redecouverte du Monde
19:00 News in French

19:15 La Vie En Panne
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Growing Pains
21:10 Alfred Hitchcock
21:35 Sunday Variety Show
22:00 News in English
22:20 Feature film: "The Kidnapping of Baby John Doe"

PRAYER TIMES

05:10 Fajr
06:31 (Sunrise) Duha
11:47 Dhuhur
14:39 'Asr
17:03 Maghreb
18:24 'Isha

CHURCHES

Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785.
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590.
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440.
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757

Terraviva Church Tel: 622366
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541.
Anglican Church Tel. 625383. Tel. 628543.
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331.
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261.
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.
Assyrian International Church Tel. 685726.
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295.
Rainbow Congregation Tel. 822605.
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 813817. 821264

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.
It will be partly cloudy to cloudy with scattered rain and another drop in temperature will occur. Winds will be northwesterly to westerly moderate. In

Aqaba, it will be partly cloudy with a chance for scattered rain. Winds will be northerly moderate to fresh and seas rough.
Amman Min./Max. temp. 4 / 7
Aqaba 6 / 16
Desserts 3 / 9
Jordan Valley 5 / 14

Yesterday's high temperature: Amman 9, Aqaba 17. Humidity readings: Amman 82 per cent. Aqaba 42 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY
AMMAN:
Dr. Ahmad 'Inab 768384
Dr. Mahmoud Al 'Awad 741391
Dr. Nabil Al Maridi 615330
Dr. Yahya Abdul Rahim 736074
Firas pharmacy 661912

Ferdows pharmacy 778336
Al Asena pharmacy 637055
Nairooth pharmacy 626372
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 640465
Shamsiah pharmacy 637660

IBRD:
Dr. Radwan Al Sa'ad (—)
Al Sharaa pharmacy (—)

ZARQA:
Dr. Yousef Abu Sa'ad 989030
Khalifeh pharmacy 965417

Hotel Complaints 650000 / 685111
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 897467
Amman Municipality 787111
Complaints 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 12
Overseas Calls 17
Central Amman Telephone 623101
Repairs 623101
Abdull Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power 636381
Company 08-53200
RJ Flight Information 08-53200
Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-53000

HOSPITALS
AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn 644281/6

Akileh Maternity, J. Amn 642441/2
Jalal Amman Maternity 642362
Nabha, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shmeisani 664171/4
Shmeisani Hospital 609131
Al-Mushter Hospital 845845
Al-Mushter Hospital 666727/9
The Islamic, Abdull 666727/9
Al-Ahli, Abdull 664164/6
Italian, Al-Muhajireen 777101/3
Al-Bashir, J. Amman 775112/6
Army, Marks 891111/5
Queen Alia Hospital 602240/50
Amal Hospital 674155
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital (09)910771
Ibn Sina Hospital (09)986732
IBRD:
Princess Basma Hospital (02)275555
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)272225
Ibn Al Nafes Hospital (02)247100
AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in Jds per kg.
Apple 480 / 460
Banana 350 / 300
Banana (Mekumari) 300 / 250
Beans 550 / 500
Broad beans 750 / 650
Cabbage 130 / 100
Carrots 280 / 260
Cauliflower 220 / 180
Cucumbers 460 / 380
Dates 600 / 500
Eggplant 140 / 100
Garlic 280 / 260
Grapes 160 / 120
Lemon 200 / 150
Marrow (large) 200 / 150
Marrow (small) 520 / 280
Orange (French) 350 / 300
Orange (Shamouti) 420 / 350
Orange (local) 280 / 200
Onion (dry) 200 / 160
Pepper (hot) 380 / 300
Pepper (sweet) 250 / 200
Potato 240 / 200
Spinach 140 / 100
Mandarin 240 / 200
Tomatoes 200 / 150

Qadhafi lauds Jordan's stand

AMMAN (J.T.) — Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi has praised Jordan's position in support of the United States over American allegations that Libya has built a chemical plant in Rabta, about 95 kilometres north of the Libyan capital, Tripoli.

In a cable he sent to His Majesty King Hussein, Qadhafi voiced the Libyan people's appreciation for Jordan's "honourable position against state terrorism and aggression against Rabta."

Referring to an American naval build-up in the Mediterranean for what Washington described as routine manoeuvres but also seen as preparation for an American

attack on the Rabta plant, which Libya says is a pharmaceutical factory, Qadhafi said in the cable that the fleet had retreated "not because of Libya's military power but as a result of the united Arab position."

"You have restored to the Arab Nation its prestige and pride in the eyes of the world with your position," Qadhafi said.

The Libyan leader also thanked the Jordanian ministers of foreign affairs, health and information for voicing Jordan's firm stand against state terrorism and aggression on Libya. He also called for Arab unity in all spheres.



Her Majesty Queen Noor Thursday holds a meeting with Minister of Social Development Fawwaz Touqan and senior ministry officials (Petra photo)

Queen pays tribute to Ministry of Social Development activities

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor has described the Ministry of Social Development's activities and programmes as a fundamental and essential element in the national effort for development.

The Ministry of Social Development is to be commended for its endeavours to develop the Jordanian society and prepare the new generation to undertake its responsibilities towards the country, the Queen said during a visit to the ministry Thursday.

The Queen met with Minister of Social Development Fawwaz Touqan and senior ministry officials and reviewed the ministry's achievements and its plans and programmes.

The ministry's work is of extreme importance since it addresses the most fundamental needs of the Jordanian society and works to provide for a future of promise and real opportunity for the Jordanian children so that they can contribute to the development of their country, the Queen said at a meeting with the minister after a tour of different



Her Majesty Queen Noor Thursday tours various sections of the Ministry of Social Development (Petra photo)

parts of the ministry's departments.

Touqan briefed Queen Noor on the ministry's projects to be carried out during 1989 in social development, special education for the handicapped, child care and projects that aim to develop life in the badia including, Wadi Rum, Wadi Araba, Muwaqqar and Mafrak and those in the rural regions. He also spoke on the ministry's efforts to give care to juvenile delinquents and street children.

Later, the Queen acquainted herself with the general work of the National Aid Fund which provides badly needed help to poor families.

Touqan said that the Ministry of Social Development would be willing and ready to coordinate its work with the Noor Al Hussein Foundation in the process of implementing social development programmes, specially in the area of encouraging traditional crafts and promoting kindergarten services.

Newspaper prices go up

AMMAN (J.T.) — The price of two local Arabic daily newspapers — Al Ra'i and Al Dustour — went up by 25 fils each as of Friday due to the soaring price of paper on the world market.

The two 20-page newspapers now sell for 100 fils each while the price of the third Arabic daily — Sawt Al Shaab — will remain the same but will appear in 16 pages only, in accordance with a decision approved by Minister of Information Hani Al Khasawneh.

The price of paper rose by 200 per cent in the past year warranting the hike, according to an official statement.

The price of local newspapers last went up in February 1987 by 25 fils up from 50 fils.

Jordan, China sign cultural programme

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan and China Thursday signed an executive programme to implement a cultural agreement for the coming three years.

The programme provides for bilateral cooperation in education, higher education, culture, art, information, sports, youth activities, social development and health fields.

The two sides agreed to encourage cultural and educational institutions in Jordan and China to launch cooperation and exchange publications and information related to culture and education and to initiate visits by officials and specialists representing

educational institutions in the two countries.

They also agreed to encourage art exhibitions portraying cultures of either country, and to exchange television, press and radio programmes.

Under the agreement, China will provide Jordan with sports coaches and the two sides will exchange visits by youth and sports teams and pave the way for health specialists to promote bilateral cooperation in health-related fields.

The programme was signed by Minister of Planning Taher Kanaan and China's Ambassador to Jordan Zhang Zhen.

1 killed in truck-train collision in south

AMMAN (Petra) — A 40-year old truck driver was killed and his vehicle destroyed in a collision with a train in southern Jordan.

A report in Al Ra'i daily said the truck, which was carrying phosphate and heading from the Wadi Al Abiad mine to Aqaba was hit by a train.

Police sources said that the truck had crossed the railway line in a well marked area stretching for five kilometres where the road and the railway line run parallel to one another, and was hit by the on-coming locomotive.

The paper also reported that a 23-year-old man was fatally shot by his father in Zarqa. The paper quoted relatives as saying that the shooting took place following a family feud.

The father was apprehended by police, and investigations are continuing, the paper said.

Al Ra'i reported the injury of 11 persons in a number of fires which occurred in the past week. One person was killed and three others injured in a fire that broke out in a store in Zarqa.

Princess Basma Hospital to buy scanning equipment

AMMAN (J.T.) — A senior official from Princess Basma Hospital in Irbid said Thursday that the hospital had invited tenders for the supply of scanning equipment to enable the hospital to provide advanced services and avoid inconvenience caused by referring patients to other hospitals.

In an interview with the Arabic daily Al Ra'i, hospital director, Abdul Hafiz Al Momani said that following the recent government decisions to link all hospitals in Jordan with the National Medical Institution (NMI), a decision was taken to form special committees to assess the hospital's needs and to look into means for improving its services. Momani noted that the hospital recently witnessed significant developments in the quality of services it offers through an agreement of cooperation with the University of Science and Technology.

Momani added that the NMI gives special attention to the hospital, which is also used as an educational hospital.

The hospital director said 95 per cent of surgical operations were performed at the hospital while very few patients, particularly those requiring heart surgeries, were referred to Al Hussein Medical Centre.

Following the cancelling of contracts with private hospitals, the hospital is expected to receive more patients, he said. A recent study found that 60 per cent of the cases referred to private hospitals were delivery cases. Momani said he does not expect any pressure on the hospital, with the exception of the maternity ward. Any how, such a pressure can be dealt with through cooperation with the military hospital in Eidoun, he said.

ILTC to carry 1.35m tonnes of goods between Aqaba, Baghdad

AMMAN (J.T.) — Minister of Transport and Telecommunications Khaled Al Haj Hassan said Thursday that a decision taken by the Iraqi-Jordanian Land Transport Company (ILTC) in a meeting in Baghdad last week will enable company trucks to transport 1,353,942 tonnes of goods between Aqaba and Baghdad and nearly a million tonnes of phosphate from Al Hassa mines in Southern Jordan to Aqaba for export every year.

The minister was speaking upon returning to Amman after attending the ILTC general assembly meeting that discussed the company's plans for 1989 and

reviewed achievements in the past year.

The general assembly endorsed the company's 1989 general budget, which amounts to JD 17,418,061, the minister said. The deliberations in Baghdad aimed at boosting the company's operations to serve the Jordanian and Iraqi economies and to increase the volume of goods which the company's fleet of trucks transport between the two countries, the minister added.

During the visit to Baghdad, Haj Hassan met with Iraqi Oil Minister Isam Halabi to discuss the question of Iraqi exports of oil products via Aqaba. The Iraqi

minister pledged that Aqaba would continue to serve as an outlet for exporting Iraqi oil products but that Iraq would stop exporting crude oil through the Red Sea port.

The general assembly meeting in Baghdad was briefed on the company's revenues in 1988 which amounted to JD 15.86 million, and expected revenues of JD 17,418 million in 1989, the minister noted.

During his stay in Baghdad, Haj Hassan held talks with several Iraqi ministers and was received by First Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yassin Ramadan.

Triplets born in Salt

AMMAN (J.T.) — A mother of three girls has now a family of six girls after delivering triplets.

Dr. Basim Khoury, in charge of her delivery at Al Hussein Hospital in Salt, said the woman was just past her eighth month of pregnancy, when she delivered.

"Initially doctors thought that she was going to have twins, but after an additional test, I found her to be carrying three," Dr. Khoury said. The woman and the new-borns were reported in good condition after the caesarian operation Thursday.

Two of the triplets weigh 1,725 grammes each while the third weighs 1,950 grammes.

Jaber: Damascus talks positive for food security

AMMAN (J.T.) — Minister of Agriculture Yousef Hamdan Al Jaber said Thursday that a three-day pan-Arab meeting in Damascus this week resulted in positive measures that would enhance Arab cooperation to ensure food security for the Arab World.

Jaber said that the delegates, representing 18 Arab states, endorsed a Jordanian proposal for readmitting Egypt to the organisation.

The move to end the suspension of Egypt's membership came at the end of the organisation's meeting and was taken to consolidate pan-Arab action, the minister added.

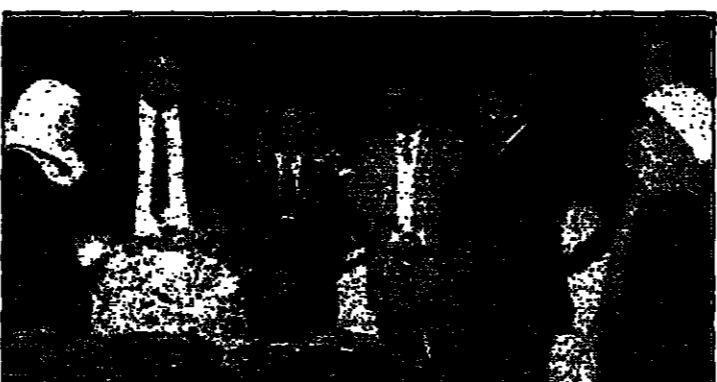
He said the organisation's general secretariat had been entrusted with preparing a study for the establishment of a pan-Arab fund to ensure finance for food projects in the Arab World.

The threat to agriculture by locusts was discussed at the meetings and a proposal was made for the establishment of a special fund to help Arabs deal with the consequences of locusts and natural disasters, Jaber said.

He said that the delegates decided to go ahead with detailed studies on water security for the Arab World and that the subject would be taken up by the organisation's next session.

KAFR SUM ELECTIONS: Some 1,500 voters will Saturday elect a new municipal council for Kafr Sum. There are 14 candidates competing for seven seats. (Petra)

CONFERENCE ON KIDNEY DISEASES: About 500 doctors will participate in the session of the sixth Arab-African conference on kidney diseases which is scheduled to convene in Amman on Jan. 21. The eight-day conference will discuss about eighty researches on children kidney diseases, kidney transplant and surgery, and treatment of parasites which affect the kidney, in addition to other related subjects. (Petra)



A charity bazaar at the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs offers woolsen and leather products made by the blind and books on family and children.

Charity bazaar opened

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Highness Prince Ra'd Ibn Zaid Thursday opened a charity bazaar at the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs' Women Affairs Department. The bazaar contains woolsen and leather products made by the blind and books dealing with children and family.

PLO rejects Rabin plan

(Continued from page 1)

Abdul Rahman called for an urgent Arab summit meeting to discuss the "explosive Middle East situation," and draw up a joint Arab security strategy to remind "the major powers and Europe of their responsibility to solve the Middle East problem and revive the peace process."

Meanwhile the PLO has decided to take its time forming a government for its independent state, a PLO leader said Friday.

Yasser Arafat, a member of the 15-man PLO Executive Committee, told Reuters: "We are not so enthusiastic about the government as we were. I don't mean we have abandoned it, but it needs further study."

Palestinian leaders have already changed their minds several times on the timing of forming a provisional government.

They had planned to do it last November to coincide with the proclamation of the Palestinian state in Algiers. They later linked it with progress towards an international conference on peace in the Middle East.

The idea gathered pace again earlier this month after more than 80 countries recognised Palestine but Arafat indicated in an interview that the present trend was towards caution.

"We should have more consultations with European, Socialist and Arab countries. The timing will depend on the settlement process, whether it is moving forward or not... we should be patient," he said.

The PLO leader said his organisation wanted prior guarantees European countries would recognise the government and it would have to decide whether to name ministers from inside the Israeli-occupied territories or to keep their names secret.

"This is one of the problems

and we must take it into consideration."

In a separate development, a Palestinian leader said Friday that Americans opposed to dialogue with the PLO were trying to use an alleged threat at Chairman Yasser Arafat as a pretext to block future talks.

"Some outgoing American circles who we think are unhappy about the dialogue still insist on creating artificial obstacles as an excuse for obstructing it," Abdulrahman Hourani, an independent member of the Palestine Liberation Organisation's 15-man Executive Committee, told Reuters.

Hourani was commenting on the dispute over remarks by Arafat in a New Year's Day speech in the Saudi capital Riyadh.

The U.S. State Department said Wednesday it had a tape recording on which Arafat said: "Whoever thinks of stopping the intifada (uprising) before it achieves its goals, I will give him 10 bullets in the chest."

President-elect George Bush Thursday described the alleged threat as disturbing and a setback to peace.

Hourani repeated PLO denials that Arafat ever made such a threat.

"He said nothing to that effect. What he said was a long way from that. Arafat didn't make a threat and could not have made a threat," Hourani said.

Hourani said, "We do not think such circles will succeed in stopping the PLO in its desire for peace, which the whole world now acknowledges and supports."

"Stopping the intifada is out of the question. The intifada didn't start so that it would stop before independence and the withdrawal of the (Israeli) occupation," he added.

Israel has urged the United States to stop talking to the PLO after Arafat's alleged threat.



Ministry of Industry and Trade Secretary-General Mohammad Saqqaf and his Egyptian counterpart Mohammad Abdul Fattah Manji Thursday sign the minutes of Jordanian-Egyptian talks on industrial cooperation (Petra photo)

Jordan, Egypt to boost industrial cooperation

AMMAN (J.T.) — An Egyptian delegation has concluded a visit to Jordan after reaching tentative agreement with the Ministry of Industry and Trade on future steps to boost cooperation in industry-related fields.

During the five-day visit here, the Egyptian team, led by Dr. Mohammad Abdul Fattah Manji, also toured the Sahab Industrial City.

According to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, the two sides laid the foundation for sound cooperation and coordination in industrial affairs and adopted a number of recommendations, which will be submitted to the Joint Jordanian-Egyptian Higher Committee which is due to convene in Cairo Jan. 27.

The agency said that the both sides, which form a joint committee to coordinate industrial affairs, signed minutes of their meetings that called for the creation of export firms that can promote national industrial products in the markets of Egypt and Jordan.

The committee recommended that a selected number of industries be chosen from both countries to work together, forming a nucleus for larger coordination. It suggested that food, fertiliser and industrial equipment industries be selected for this task as a first step.

The committee urged Jordan and Egypt to try to benefit from raw materials produced by either country instead of importing them from abroad and called for the introduction of measures that can orient the public in Egypt and Jordan on various items manufactured by the other country.

The minutes were signed by the heads of the two teams, Mohammad Saqqaf of Jordan and Abdul Fattah Manji, who is also his country's under-secretary for industry.

The Joint Jordanian-Egyptian Higher Committee will meet under the co-chairmanship of Prime Minister Zaid Rifai and his Egyptian counterpart Atif Sidki. The committee will discuss progress in joint economic projects, and will assess the integration process between Jordan and Egypt in economy, information, cultural, agricultural and industrial fields. The committee last met in Amman in January 1988.

NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

MAFRAQ POSTAL SERVICES: The telecommunications department in Mafrak Governorate opened three post offices in Mafrak and others in the villages of 'Ain, Al Zinva, Al Mansura, Um Al Sarb, Al Kom Al Ahmar, Al Rifa'yat, and Jaber Al Sarhan in 1988. The opening of these offices provided services to 15,000 people. (Petra)

MADABA WATER SCHEME: The Madaba district water authority has finished the construction of a new water network and sewerage system for the city of Madaba. (Petra)

ECONOMY SEMINAR: Council for Arab Economic Unity (CAEU) Secretary General Hassan Ibrahim will participate in a two-day seminar on the effect of the termination of the Iran-Iraq war on economic policy in the Arab region. The seminar, which will be held in Baghdad Feb. 8, will discuss papers dealing with development plans and post-war reconstruction. (Petra)

HELP TO THE NEEDY: The Red Crescent Society branch in South Ghor has extended symbolic aid to 120 needy families in the villages of Swaimah and Al Ghawaseh. (Petra)

INSURANCE FIRMS COMPLETE MERGER: Arrangements for the merger of the Jordan Insurance Company and the National Union Insurance Company have been completed, according to Ministry of Industry and Trade officials. The two companies, which decided to merge as of Jan. 7, 1989, will have a joint capital of JD \$ million. (Petra)

WEST GERMAN MUSICIANS: West German guitar-duo Thomas Offermann and Jens Wagner will hold a concert at the Amra Hotel Jan. 24. The concert is held by the West German Embassy in Amman in cooperation with the Amra Hotel. (J.T.)

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ An exhibition of works by Contemporary Arab Artists at Al-Wasiti Art Gallery.
- ★ The Iraqi Cultural Week which includes an exhibition by the Iraqi artist Salam Al Madanigh and an exhibition of children's paintings and children's literary and cultural books, at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ An exhibition of photos and videos on "La Defense", a new district in Paris which became a symbol of architectural creativity, at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ An exhibition of decorations and Arabic orthography on mirrors by Ghada Al Khatib at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ An art exhibition by Egyptian artist Yassin Ibrahim Mohammad at the Housing Bank Gallery.
- ★ An exhibition of photographic works by Wols (Otto Wolfgang Schulz) at the Goethe Institute — 5:00 p.m.

LECTURE

- ★ A lecture by Dr. Muneer Hamarneh on Arabic economy at Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation — 6:00 p.m.

Painting exhibition

The secretary-general of the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage, Mr. Hani Al Ahmad, Thursday opened a two-week painting exhibition by Egyptian plastic artist Yassin Ibrahim Mohammad at the Housing Bank Complex. The exhibition (photo above) includes 30 pieces of art depicting psychological aspects of man.

Jordan Times

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Jordan Times Advertising Department.

The keys are there

THE ISRAELI government apparently believes that it can quell the Palestinian uprising and dampen its vigour by simply escalating the severity and brutality of its suppression against the Palestinians. This is amply demonstrated by the new orders issued by Israel's Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin to his troops to increase its fire power against the Palestinian youth struggling for liberation and by the increase in the number of the killed and injured among them. But this is clearly an erroneous and dangerous assumption and miscalculation on the part of the Israeli establishment that will only bring them a more hardened Palestinian opposition to their occupation. After more than one year since the beginning of the Palestinian revolt, it must have dawned on the Israeli strategist that the fallen Palestinian youth keep on fuelling the Palestinian intifada and the more there are martyrs on the Palestinian side the more becomes the resolve of the Palestinians to fortify and bolster their determination to continue their struggle till the sweet end. The Israeli occupying authorities are therefore grossly mistaken in believing that by increasing the human toll of the Palestinian revolt the Palestinians could be forced into submission and retreat.

From the Palestinian side there is a clear message from this test of resolve between them and the Israelis: Their struggle will endure for as long as necessary till they achieve their inalienable rights to liberty and self-determination. The Palestinian investment in their ongoing intifada in human and material terms is already high and there is no way they will retreat now. Yet the keys for a sensible and legitimate ending of the cycle of violence and bloodshed in the occupied territories are already there in the hands of the Israeli policy-makers ready to be used to unlock the doors of peace, harmony and even friendship between the two sides for time immemorial. There is no turning back now on the Arab resolve to terminate the Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip. There is only one way left to the Israelis to end the Palestinian intifada before it assumes even more ominous proportions: Simply end the occupation and help give the Palestinians in the occupied territories an opportunity to exercise their God-given rights.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

THE deteriorating situation in the educational services in the Israeli-occupied Arab territories was the theme of an editorial in Al Ra'i Arabic daily Friday. The closure of five schools in the West Bank and the threats made by the Israeli authorities to close others during the current school year, can be described as a part of the long-term policies adopted by the occupation authorities to deprive the Arab population of the right to education, said the paper. By closing Arab schools the Israelis claim that they are doing so to restore order to the Arab areas, but this cannot conceal the fact from the eyes of the world that what is going on inside the occupied territories at the moment is a revolt and an uprising by the indigenous population to regain their rights and their freedom, the paper noted. It said that the closure of schools is done as a revenge on the Arabs; and the other atrocities which include killing and house demolishing were expected to continue as part of the evil plans being implemented against the oppressed people of Palestine.

WRITING in Al Ra'i daily, the paper's editor Rakan Al Majali reflects on the end of the Reagan era and the take over by the new Bush administration in the United States. The writer says that Reagan, who was able to complete eight years in the White House despite the Iran-contra scandal that rocked Washington and the bouts of cancer that he had during his mandate, the man will be remembered as a president who had played to the tunes of the American people, winning their support and maintaining his great popularity all the way through. But for the Arabs, Reagan will be remembered as the president who shifted the whole U.S. stand in a total bias towards Israel, the writer adds. He says that the new man in the White House has a vast experience in government, having served as the chief of the Central Intelligence Agency and in other key posts under more than one president. He concludes by saying that one would expect from George Bush a new strategy different from that adopted by his predecessor with regard to the Soviet Union which is now oriented towards openness, and probably towards the Middle East now that Washington has embarked on a dialogue with the PLO for sake of arriving at a solution of the Palestine problem.

Al Dustour daily said in its editorial that as George Bush take over as president in the United States, the world looks with hope for a greater measure of East-West detente, and an end to regional conflicts. The Arabs in particular look towards Bush as a man with a good deal of experience in politics and one who could bring about a real change in America's present policies, the paper noted. It said that the peoples of the Middle East are more than others in the world awaiting some good and positive changes in Washington's attitudes that would see the beginning of the end of the Middle East problem. Perhaps, it added, the on-going uprising in the occupied Arab territories and the injustice that is being done to the Palestinians will prompt the new administration to take steps to work for a lasting peace in the Middle East region.

Sawt Al Shaab daily Friday also dwelt on the same theme and said that the Arab World was deeply gratified to see the end of the Reagan mandate, witnessing the beginning of a dialogue between Washington and the PLO for the sake of achieving peace in the Middle East. It said that the advent of a new president in the United States is a great event in the life of Americans, and let us hope that the new man in the White House will take the initiative to make it a great event for the people of the Middle East by ending the Arab-Israeli conflict and removing a real threat to world peace.

Israel's nuclear reach

Israel's nuclear capability, confirmed by independent experts but unacknowledged by its leaders, introduces a major negative element on the Middle Eastern scene.

By Sajid Rizvi

LONDON — While the Arab World ponders the spread of chemical weapons and its leaders assess the impact of intifada on Israel, it's easy to skim over two interrelated facts: Israel possesses not just chemical weapons but also nuclear bombs and it has its own satellite in orbit, snapping away day and night at the ground below.

How these realities come together in a composite picture of the Middle East may depend as much on one's perception as the march of events. While it is true, for example, that Israel has a nuclear arsenal incompatible with its size it is also pathetically weak economically and unable to sort out its day-to-day politics. That peculiar mix makes Israel cataclysmally unpredictable and places it in a position where no other regional state, unstable or not, can be found.

Frank Barnaby was drawn into the labyrinthine world of Israel's nuclear programme as a consequence of an event that apparently shook Israel and awakened the rest of the world to a reality which was suspected for long but not quite confirmed. In October 1986 Mordechai Vanunu, an Israeli technician at the Dimona nuclear centre in the Negev desert, was extensively quoted in a London Sunday Times article that revealed "the secrets of Israel's nuclear arsenal." Barnaby was called in by the paper to assess the credibility of his evidence.

In March 1988 the Moroccan-born Israeli was sentenced to 18 years for treason after ending up in Israel as a result of an elaborate trap set by Mossad. Was he punished for lying? Not at all. Barnaby is the latest of several distinguished experts to conclude that the Vanunu case provided Israel with the opportunity to broadcast the message of Israel's nuclear capability without actually making a confession.

"I am not suggesting for one moment that Vanunu was a willing tool of Mossad," Barnaby writes in *The Invisible Bomb*, to be published by I.B. Tauris on Jan. 26. "On the contrary, my conversations with him convinced me that he was not. But it is entirely possible that unwittingly he was allowed to serve a purpose — to tell the world about Israel's nuclear-weapon activities."

"The Israeli leaders cannot admit that Israel is carrying out these activities but they are quite happy that Vanunu has done so."

Much of what Vanunu revealed

is modern history, having been corroborated by independent evidence, but Barnaby has come up with details of his conversations with the Israeli defector that the Sunday Times could not publish. A physicist by training, Barnaby enjoys reputation as a nuclear weapons expert; he was previously director of the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI). At Vanunu's trial he testified as a defence witness.

If Vanunu's purpose was to still his conscience and blow the whistle on Israel's nuclear programme, Barnaby maintains, he may have achieved the opposite. In his view the revelations of the Israeli programme have accelerated the nuclear arms race in the Middle East. That being so, the additional information that Barnaby has come up with in the book may only exacerbate that contest.

Working with Vanunu's testimony and independent sources, Barnaby has reached the conclusion that Israel has at least 150 nuclear and thermonuclear devices ready for use. There are few major Arab cities that these weapons cannot reach, in addition to targets in Iran, Turkey, the Soviet Union and southern Europe.

The nuclear proliferation in the Middle East, therefore, would seem to be "the most important current international issue." Does anyone care? It seems not, even as Barnaby argues convincingly that a global nuclear war may indeed be triggered by a regional nuclear war in the Middle East.

Much of the defence of Israel's nuclear weapons programme centres on the argument that the bomb will serve as a last-ditch deterrent. But Barnaby questions that premise. Thermonuclear weapons, now part of the Israeli arsenal, would not be necessary in such a strategy since "no Arab city is big enough to 'justify' a thermonuclear weapon," he says.

"Why, then, has Israel opted for a relatively large and sophisticated nuclear force?" he asks. "The most likely explanation seems to be that the technological momentum of the nuclear-weapon programme has taken over and become unstoppable."

Israel has had to form a team of nuclear scientists and technologists to operate its nuclear reactors and its reprocessing plant, and to design, develop and produce nuclear weapons. These professionals will obviously want to make increasingly sophisticated bombs "to convince themselves that they can do so and for the sheer satisfaction of it," Barnaby

argues.

If this is really what has happened in Israel, Israeli bomb-makers are no different from their counterparts in other nuclear powers. "There is, after all, no rational military or political reason for any country to produce high-yield thermonuclear weapons." But Israel has followed in the footsteps of Britain, France and China to produce these weapons.

Barnaby believes that several Arab countries may feel tempted to match the Israeli nuclear capability and even the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) may want to possess a nuclear explosive device, if only to produce "serious social and political instability in Israel, perhaps amounting to mass hysteria."

"The possibility of provoking such extreme political disruption may, in fact, be the main objective of the PLO in acquiring nuclear explosives. This objective could, of course, be achieved without actually detonating a nuclear explosive device. Mere possession would be enough."

Palestinian leaders may balk at Barnaby's suggestion, of course, particularly since the idea no longer fits into the nonviolent framework enunciated by PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat.

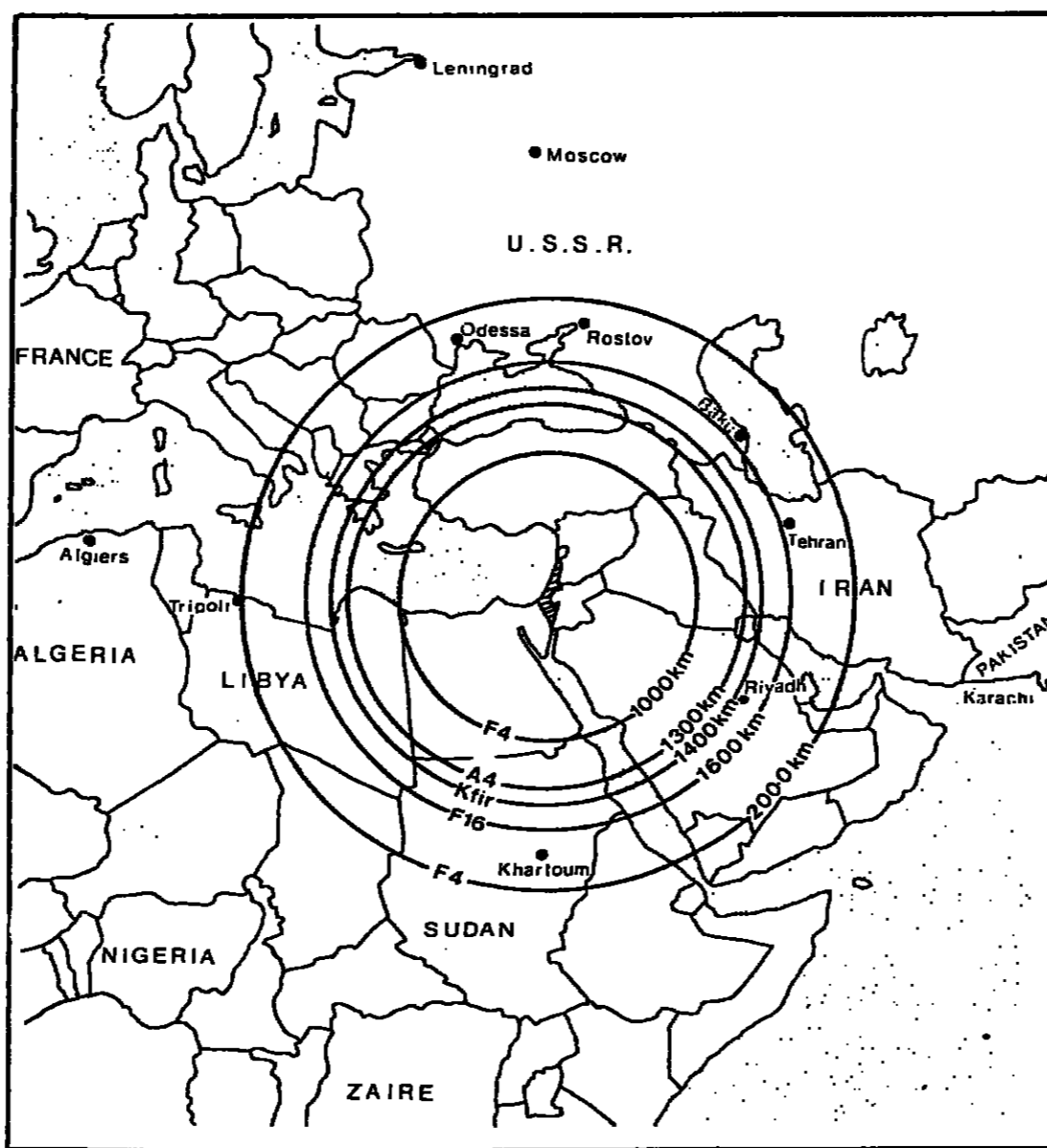
But it's worth remembering that the Palestinian deadlock is far from over, what with controversy over chemical weapons and Libyan-American confrontation threatening to halt the Palestinian-American dialogue. Barnaby's speculative reflections may seem far-fetched, but they help an understanding of Israel's thoughts on the nuclear issue.

A Palestinian nuclear threat, he argues, may be one significant reason why the Israeli government remains ambiguous about its nuclear weapons. "Israeli political leaders may well fear that, if the PLO is faced with the disclosure of Israel's nuclear-weapon capability, it may feel compelled to obtain nuclear weapons itself." Well, if the PLO does go that far, Israel will have no-one except itself to blame.

Barnaby holds out little hope that Israel can be restrained or forced to abandon its weapons development programmes. There is even less likelihood that nuclear weapons can be prevented from spreading to other countries.

But the question that remains chiefly unanswered is how Israel would use its nuclear deterrent on the political front — specially when faced with the present momentum of Palestinian intifada. — Academic File.

The Invisible Bomb: The Nuclear Arms Race in the Middle East. Frank Barnaby. 250 pp. I.B. Tauris. £14.95.



Bush becomes 41st U.S. president

(Continued from page 1)

Bush's swearing-in crowned a government career more than two decades long.

The 64-year-old Bush, born to wealth and privilege, became a decorated navy combat pilot in World War II, a Yale graduate, Texas oilman and millionaire, congressman, U.N. ambassador, envoy to China and CIA director.

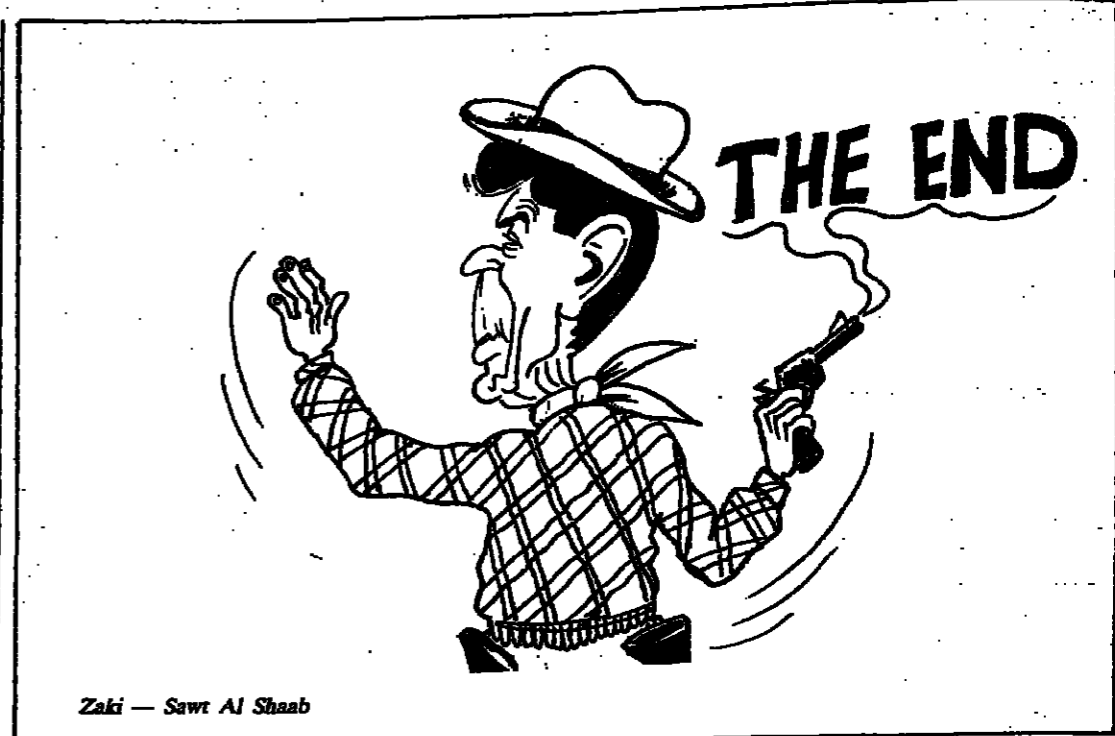
Along with his wives, Reagan and Bush and Quayle posed for

pictures on the north portico of the White House. Asked if he had any thoughts for Reagan, Bush said, "the thoughts flow the other way — except to wish him the very best as he leaves this job he did so well."

Serving as White House hosts one last time, President and Mrs. Reagan treated the Bushes and the Quayles to coffee and pastries in the Blue Room of the executive mansion. Then they went to the capitol together.

Thousands of people surged into the city to view the festivities and get an spot along the 1.6-mile (2 kilometre) inaugural parade route. Although U.S. government employees were given the day off, there was a heavy crush of passengers on the subway system, catching officials by surprise.

In a brief exchange with reporters after a morning church service, Bush said he had prayed for "strength — strength, peace."



Turks, and Ozal, feeling the squeeze of inflation

By Clyde Haberman

ISTANBUL — As 1988 drew to a close, Prime Minister Turgut Ozal of Turkey received an unusual and unwelcome package in the mail: Five men from the western city of Denizli had sent him the belts to their trousers. The belts were of no use any more, the men said, because they could not be tightened any further.

At first the five were rounded up and questioned by the police, but then released because they had not committed a crime. But they had vividly expressed the frustration that Turks are feeling as rampant inflation — officially put at 75 per cent last year — hammers the economy and threatens political stability.

Bread prices shot up a month ago by 30 per cent. Three days before the new year began, gasoline prices were raised by 20 per cent, the seventh increase of 1988. The cost of mailing those belts from Denizli in December was double what it would have been last summer.

These days, a Turkish businessman who needs to borrow money is staring at an interest rate of 85 per cent. Turkey's currency, the lira, has lost more than 80 per cent of its value against the dollar over the last year, making it that much harder to import needed industrial equipment and other goods.

For most of his more than five years in office, Ozal has had two economic priorities — growth and more growth. But now his aides concede that they must slash government spending, restrain business expansion and otherwise rein in the economy if they hope to control inflation that came close at times last year to triple-digit levels.

Inflation, by far the No.1 concern for most Turks, is fast eroding the political strength of Ozal, a one-time economic technocrat who has failed repeatedly to make good on promises to hold

prices down. His domestic problems underline the broader challenges that lie ahead for Turkey as it seeks membership in the European Community and finds European nations reacting with a mixture of caution and dread.

Ankara's relations with the United States have been testy as well, especially because of Turkey's conviction that it is being short-changed on U.S. aid compared with Greece.

Resentments on this score overshadow the fact that in the 1988 and 1989 fiscal years, the Turks received \$92 million in economic assistance, while the Greeks got nothing. Moreover, U.S. military aid to Turkey totaled \$990 million for the two years, against \$693 million for Greece.

These funds have been allocated on a formula that gives \$10 to Turkey for every \$7 sent to Greece. In Ankara, officials argue that they should be getting far more money, given the fact that it contributes many times more troops to NATO defence forces than does Greece.

Even so, the Turkish focus for now is on Europe, which has been cool to the Turkish application for many reasons. They include fears of a flood of inexpensive Turkish textiles and other exports, as well as concern about a possible rapid rise in the already considerable number of Turkish migrant workers, especially in West Germany.

The slowdown has already occurred. Tegril said the 1988 growth rate, projected a few months ago at 7.2 per cent, was likely to end up closer to 5 per cent.

In part, the change reflects spending reductions and other low-growth measures imposed early last year. But they were obviously not very effective, and Turkish economists and foreign analysts blame a lack of political will to carry out the cutsback.

With 55 million people and a birthrate that creates 3 million more every two years, Turkey needs annual economic growth of

at least 5 per cent to absorb all the new entrants into the work force. As it is, unemployment stands at 15 per cent.

In retrospect, government officials acknowledge, they may have been too effective in massaging an economy that had flat growth when Ozal took office in 1983 as Turkey's first civilian leader after three years of military rule.

From the start, his emphasis was on promoting exports, improving infrastructure and lifting heavy-handed government controls.

Adnan Kahveci, a state minister and a close Ozal adviser, ticked off a list of successes: the fact that only one-third of Turkey's villages had telephones in 1983, and now all do; the fact that electricity has been extended to every village; the fact that sewage systems in fast-growing Istanbul have increased four-fold over the last five years.

The Ozal government has also loosened foreign-exchange controls and banking laws to give businessmen more freedom, and it has begun, albeit slowly, the process of turning over to private hands a broad range of state-run enterprises.

On many fronts, the results were impressive.

The economy grew in the mid-1980s by 7 per cent and 8 per cent a year. Exports in 1988, estimated at \$11.5 billion, were up by nearly 15 per cent from the previous year. Foreign investment in the last year alone — about \$800 million — accounted for nearly one-third of the total for the last three decades.

This influx of capital, coupled with a booming tourist industry and unusually heavy remittances from Turkish workers overseas, helped produce a small current-account surplus for 1988, tentatively estimated at \$100 million. It is the first such surplus since the early 1970s, and contrasts sharply with a 1987 deficit of almost \$1 billion — The New York Times.

De Mita presides over uncanny stability in Italy

By Barry Moody
Reuters

ROME — A collapse in the fortunes of Italy's big Communist Party and a fundamental parliamentary reform have ushered in a period of almost uncanny stability in a country better known for political turmoil and "revolving door" government.

When Christian Democrat leader Ciriaco De Mita reluctantly stepped into the high-risk prime minister's job last April he was widely seen as walking into a trap set by his enemies to swiftly end his political career.

Now, eight months later, he is being accused of establishing a ruling pact with his one-time worst enemy, Socialist leader Bettino Craxi, that excludes everybody else including the three other parties in the ruling coalition — Republicans, Social Democrats and Liberals — and enables him to bulldoze aside all potential obstacles.

The Communist Party, biggest of its kind in Western Europe, has made increasingly bitter attacks on De Mita.

Communist leader Achille Occhetto has called on other parties to join battle against "a regime which... suffocates all effective pluralism."

in such an important game."

The new climate is in stark contrast to the past, not only because it follows a year of some of the worst instability in the last four decades, but because Italian government has traditionally been a constant exercise in reconciliation and compromise among the parties.

The widespread impression now is that the De Mita-Craxi alliance is so strong that they can ignore the other parties.

Describing what has happened as a "tip-toe revolution," the respected Corriere Della Sera newspaper said: "Now we suddenly realise, that out of a dozen parties in parliament, only the Christian Democrats are irreplaceable and the Socialist Party is the only one that is indispensable. The others are either supplementary or they are not even considered."

There is widespread agreement that the reason for this startling new situation is a historic decline in the strength of the Communists combined with De Mita's success in ending almost all secret voting in parliament, a basic cause of past instability.

The Communists, undermined by their failure to respond to economic changes and outmanoeuvred by Craxi, slumped to their worst defeat for 35 years in local elections last May, garnering only 22 per cent of the vote.

The collapse has transformed the political equation, robbing the Communists of their role as flanking partner for both Craxi and De Mita and forcing the former rivals together.

"There is now no possibility of a left-wing alliance or of a (Communist) alliance with the Christian Democrats," De Mita told foreign correspondents at a lunch recently.

The rivalry between Craxi and De Mita was the root cause of chronic instability in the year before the Christian Democrat leader took over, and some observers are cynical about how long their marriage of convenience can last.

But De Mita said at the lunch: "At least in the medium term this equilibrium has no alternative. There is a stronger motivation to see how we can stay together than how we can divide."

The second vital element in De Mita's success was his gamble, strongly backed by Craxi, to end almost all secret voting in parliament — previously the rule — against trenchant opposition within his own party.

This gamble, which brought De Mita within a whisker of defeat and resignation, has ended a 40-year-old tradition of rebel deputies secretly torpedoing their own governments.

Above all it has made it almost impossible for the rebels to wreck economic planning and sabotage De Mita's drive to bring the runaway public deficit under control.

The calm and apparent tranquillity since the secret vote battle in parliament are a sharp contrast with the situation just one year ago.

De Mita is on the verge of pushing through the 1989 budget with little difficulty and only minor modifications.

Want to laugh? Watch a movie

By Peter Bonas

THERE is another, another representative of the film world in the Federal Republic of Germany who is so openly and outspokenly committed to the "entertaining" aspect of the cinema as film maker Doris Dörrie. She seems to have put this to the test in her film "Männer" (Men) which she made in 1985, that new German films are not only concerned with highbrow themes, but are also capable of approaching the same subjects in a light-hearted, humorous manner, and in a way which is not understandable for men and women among the local population. The universal and enduring success of this film proved Doris Dörrie right.

Her concept is just as easy as it is difficult to realise. "First and foremost," said Doris Dörrie in an interview, "the public wants to be entertained in the cinema, experience something. Partly to get away from the pressure of the daily round, and partly to experience the more intense feelings which are missing in our everyday life." Making out a case for the cinema as an alternative drug, in other words? It almost seems as if this female film director is speaking on behalf of the very people she so vociferously opposed ten years ago. "A small clique of harsh rulers determine what and how much truth flickers across the screen. It's a sickening situation; all film makers are agreed on that point." A contradiction? Only apparently; in reality it is concerned with the difference between good and bad entertainment.

The fact that good films do not have to necessarily cost a lot of money is a lesson which Doris Dörrie taught the magnates in this branch with her "Männer". She made it on a comparatively low budget of 800,000 German marks, with support from television. It was only with great difficulty that Doris Dörrie managed to get the film distributed. No-one had really expected "Männer" to become such a smash hit with little or no publicity. Within

a short period of time, it had been seen by six million people: it had a successful run in France, Britain and the USA and received rave notices. And yet the style of the film is relatively simple: "Männer" varies the pattern of banal German love and mistaken-identity comedies from the 1930s to the 1950s. The subject here is likewise love, but in its modern dress as "Beziehungskiste" (relationship box). A married and highly successful businessman leaves his wife, who is deceiving him, to live in the house-sharing community of her lover, a bohème and an anarcho-situationist. The husband succeeds in making the idea of a career palatable to the lover. When this actually comes about, he is nothing more than a transfer of the husband, and no longer a source of attraction for the wife.

The nonchalant way in which relations between the sexes is dealt with — so often the subject of embittered and usually solemn discussion in Germany — is shown in the film "Paradies" (Paradise), made in 1986. Here, however, Doris Dörrie adopts a much harder line to the subject matter. Viktor, a married man, who leaves his wife to live with his girl-friend, gradually goes to seed.

And yet: "I consider the only possible way to survive is to develop one's sense of humour to the point where one can in any way bear what is happening in the world." The success achieved by the 33-year-old director stems from her ability to deal with complicated subjects in an uncomplicated manner, and, most of all, her trip to America. A cinema and rock fan with a middle-class background, she graduated from high school in Hanover. Then she went straight away to the USA. As a projectionist at the New York-based Goethe Institute, she managed to make her way initially. Then she came into contact with many emigrants who liked to watch old German films. It was there that she also became familiar with the American cinema. Years of study at Stockton, South California, fol-



With her film comedies, Doris Dörrie has become one of the most successful film makers in the current German film industry.

(Photo: INP/Peter W. Engelmeier)

lowed. "Mitten ins Herz" (Straight through the Heart), which Doris Dörrie made in 1983, was her first full-length feature and played to almost empty houses. Her second film "Im Inneren des Wals" (Inside the Whale) — 1984 — suffered a similar fate. Now, following "Männer" and "Paradies," she has made "Ich und er" (I and he), a film about the "little difference" between man and woman. It is a film which follows its basic idea somewhat long-windedly. The "little difference" (of the man) can speak and leads his owner, Bert,

a New York architect, astray, away from a successful career and marriage. Instead it stimulates him to go on the prowl for sex. The success of this film, which was freely adapted from Alberto Moravia's novel of the same name, seems to reconfirm — even if less convincingly than "Männer" — the gimmick in the Dörrie films: the "Beziehungskiste" — as intelligent as Woody Allen's slapstick trifles, funnier at all events than the heavy-footed, futility-doomed epics à la Margarethe von Trotta.

(IN-Press)

Jordan received 200 heads of cattle, 200 goats Project provides gifts of livestock

By Louise Feuner
and Rosalind Mandine

WASHINGTON — Farmers in the Near East, South Asia, Africa, Latin America and the Far East, who receive livestock through the help of a U.S. organization called Heifer Project International (HPI) must make one important promise: to pass along their animals' first-born female offspring to a neighbour in need.

This act transforms the aid recipients into donors, and it creates a life-sustaining chain as animals are given to more and more people. It is just what Indiana farmer Dan West dreamed of when he founded HPI in the early 1940s.

HPI sent the first shipment of heifers to Puerto Rico in 1944. Since then, this private, non-profit organization has provided dairy and beef cattle, goats, sheep, pigs, rabbits, fish, honeybees, poultry, draft and dairy buffalo, camels, and yaks to people in more than 110 countries and 33 U.S. states.

West, who died in 1971, conceived the idea of fighting hunger and poverty through gifts of livestock when he was distributing relief supplies to families during the Spanish Civil War. He became discouraged at the futility of handouts and realised that providing people with farm animals, instead of just a cup of milk, would help them achieve dignity and self-sufficiency.

Now farmers in Pakistan, India, Jordan and Egypt, among others, are raising cattle and goats provided by HPI in cooperation with local private groups. The HPI programme in Pakistan is small but there is hope it will expand, according to Dr. Robert Pelant, staff veterinarian and programme director for South Asia and the Pacific. Currently the HPI is working with the Aga Khan World Support Programme to provide dairy cattle and training to farmers in northern Pakistan.

HPI has worked to expand milk production in India since the 1950s, according to Dr. Pelant. HPI's target groups in India are landless labourers and marginal farmers, with efforts concentrated in the southern states. HPI has also started a new programme in India where it provides honey bees to the Trees for Life organisation, which seeks to reforest parts of India.

In 1989, HPI has allocated \$8,000 to \$10,000 for projects in Pakistan and \$75,000 for projects in Jordan.

In Jordan, retired military servicemen are supplementing their incomes with HPI provided animals, according to Dr. James DeVries, programme director for Africa and the Near East and coordinator of educational programmes. HPI provides dairy cattle or goats to farmers who produce the milk for their families and sell the surplus, in cooperation with the Jordanian Economic and Social Organisation for Retired Servicemen.

The cattle are shipped to the northern area of Jordan, where there is appropriate grazing and the goats are shipped to the central and southern parts of Jordan. In the last three years HPI has shipped 200 head of cattle and in the last two years 200 goats to Jordan. Since 1981 the HPI has

also provided farmers in Central Egypt with goats, cattle, rabbits and chickens in cooperation with the Coptic Evangelical Organisation for Social Services. Working with the Integrated Social Service Centre, HPI is helping farmers in nine villages in the delta area of Egypt with funding for the purchase of sheep, goats, and cattle. HPI will evaluate the programmes in Jordan and Egypt in the next year with the hope of expanding, said Dr. DeVries. HPI funding for Egypt in 1989 is \$20,000.

HPI will not ship any animals to Jordan in 1989, but will allocate \$5,000 for training and plans a shipment in 1990 of about 100 heifers and 70 goats.

HPI also responds to disasters, such as the 1986 tragedy at Lake Nyos, Cameroon, where a cloud of carbon dioxide released by a volcano killed 1,700 people. Cattle were airlifted from neighbouring regions to help the survivors rebuild their lives, and HPI also established a programme to provide additional crossbred stock and train farmers in improved production methods.

The HPI has also fielded highly successful rabbit breeding projects in other regions of the world. A trio of rabbits can produce 100 pounds of meat a year, according to HPI.

Recently, schoolchildren in the Dominican Republic and Haiti received HPI support to set up their own rabbit breeding projects, which according to Jim Hoey, director of HPI's Latin America and Caribbean programme, "are doing very well." "They are beginning to see that it is possible to raise rabbits in a

very simple way — you don't need a lot of fancy equipment, and the rabbits eat a lot of forage so you don't need many grains at all."

HPI always works through local groups to assure that the livestock will go to people who can take care of them properly. These groups also determine who will receive the offspring from the original livestock and each succeeding generation.

Training is considered the key to success of the projects. Besides livestock management, the recipients may also learn skills such as the bookkeeping needed to run a successful project. In some areas, Peace Corps volunteers provide technical assistance.

In Ecuador, for example, HPI works with the National Sheep Grower's Association (ANCO) to provide rams and ewes to poor farmers throughout the country. ANCO runs sheep-breeding operations on farms loaned by the Ministry of Agriculture, and HPI pays for animals that go to farmers who could not otherwise afford them.

The farmers, who belong to local farmers' groups, are under contract to return the first female offspring to ANCO, and that animal goes to another family. Peace Corps volunteers help provide training and technical assistance to the farmers' groups.

HPI is a non-denominational ecumenical agency supported by churches, individuals, government grants, private foundations, and businesses.

Headquarters for the Heifer Project International is in Little Rock, Arkansas — U.S. Information Agency.

Architect Edem leaves his mark on modern Turkey

The renowned Turkish architect, Sedat Hakkı Eldem, pioneered a marriage of traditional and modern architecture in his country and left a deep impression on his followers.

By Cengiz Erurum

ISTANBUL — Few architects have influenced construction in modern Turkey as profoundly as Sedat Hakkı Eldem who died in September last year at the ripe old age of 80. A great advocate of marriage between modern and traditional architecture Eldem put his stamp on modern commercial and residential housing in Turkey, adapting Ottoman styles to suit current needs.

What he did was a revolution in itself — and a revelation to many contemporary architects. Turkish architecture after the establishment of the republic in 1923 tended increasingly to gravitate towards soulless concrete structures. The influence of modern European architecture was very much in evidence in the early years.

Eldem brought in anterooms, porches, eaves and lattices of the Ottoman times to decorate modern seaside villas and individual buildings in Istanbul and other major cities.

Three-quarters of Eldem's life was devoted to architecture. Until the very end, before he fell ill, Eldem was busy with new projects and new designs. A man of extraordinary energy, Eldem no doubt would have gone on had poor health not caught up with him.

He believed in and practiced

the concept that each nation wishes to have edifices of a unique style. Although advanced communications appeared to dissolve the distinctions in architecture of different nations, Eldem maintained that the desire for individual styles was rooted deeply in national psyches. Even revolutions, he said, could not change a nation's concepts of taste and the living environment.

In Turkey's context, he believed that history was an everlasting guide for modern forays in architecture. No contemporary experience in modern living could be complete without reference to the country's history and the cultural achievements of the past. This was reflected in his designs for homes as well as public buildings, including the Istanbul Palace of Justice.

In addition to history, however, Eldem wanted architects to draw on their immediate environments. The geographical characteristics of the region in which a building was to be erected determined not only the construction method and materials but also the style. These factors, he said, resulted in the birth of a regional architectural style which in turn was in harmony with the national style as well as nature.

Citing the proverb, "show me your house and I will tell you who you are" and "my house is my

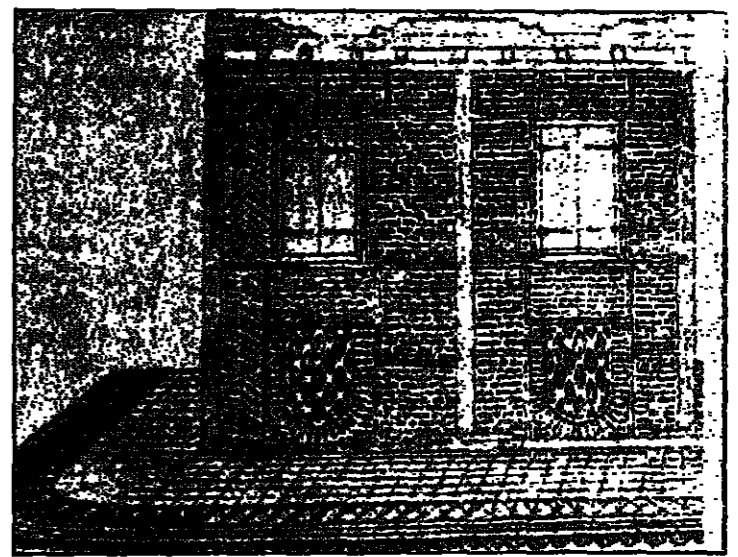
country," Eldem often lamented the fact that these expressions were taken lightly by the Turkish public.

In his opinion, paying due attention to one's house was one of the most important aspects of citizenship. He believed that a national architectural style should begin with the building of homes. He often stated the importance of including a separate course entitled "Architecture for Homes" in the architecture curriculum.

Modern architecture in republican Turkey was affected by the cubist style brought to the country by foreign architects, especially Germans. But it was unpopular with those who advocated an individual style for Turkey.

The so-called cubist style lasted for more than 10 years. It ended with the emergence of the "National Architectural Concept" which had its origins at the Fine Arts Academy in 1935. One of the great champions of this style, no doubt, was Sedat H. Eldem.

Although he was known as a traditionalist by most architects, he was perhaps the most successful representative of modern architecture. We can answer those who call Sedat H. Eldem traditionalist with his own words. "I have always tried to make my designs comply with modern architecture (precepts). That is the kind of architecture I consider to be modern". — Academic File.



One of Edem's designs

'Bombs' that could save world's forests

BOMBS are falling on Brazil in a silent battle being fought well away from world headlines. Yet it could be the first signal of a new global war, with the developing countries in the front-line.

This dramatic news has escaped world political and media attention because in the bombing of Brazil not one person has been killed and not one building damaged. The bombs are not nuclear but nutrient.

Within the next year millions of such weapons are expected to be dropped in the struggle to repair Man-made destruction of tropical forests. And if the fight spreads to Africa and Asia it will be a war with a difference — to create instead of destroying.

The Brazilian campaign is currently focused on the sloped above the industrial town of Cubatão where deforestation has brought the threat of devastating landslides.

The area is being bombarded with tiny gelatine balls, each containing ten seeds of tropical plants. Later, as the bombardment widens, scientists plan to use nutrient-enriched bombs to increase chances of successful

germination.

The seed bombs are heavy enough to fall directly on to target areas, and the gelatine casings absorb moisture, thus giving the seeds a healthy chance of survival.

Efforts to conserve and renew tropical rainforests are vital at a time when these areas, once covering around ten per cent of the Earth's land surface, are disappearing at an alarming rate. In Brazil alone about 80,000 square kilometres of virgin forest was cleared in 1987.

Ecologists say that in little more than a decade at current rates of deforestation shown on satellite images, only two major blocks of rainforest, those in Western Amazonia and Central Zaire, will remain.

The ecological, social and economic consequences of this major asset-stripping are likely to be dire.

The effect on local or global climate is hard to predict, but many believe that the huge scale of deforestation is making a contribution to the noticeable changes in world weather pat-

terns.

Scientific speculation is that wood burning releases gases that add to the thinning of the earth's protective ozone layer, increasing the global "greenhouse" syndrome.

Tropical forests are the habitat of as much as 50 per cent of all species of our planet's animal and plant life, and biologists estimate that extinction now runs at around 10,000 species a year. This represents an incalculable number of plants, insects and small animals, which no seed bombs will replace.

Even if the environmental consequences were tolerable, the human factor offers grim evidence against complacency.

Around 200 million people make a living from tropical forests, and more than 50 million are their traditional inhabitants. But hundreds of millions of non-forest peoples are affected by what happens to forest areas.

The World Resources Institute says that the lives of more than a billion people are already disrupted by flooding, fuel shortages, soil and water degradation

and reduced agricultural production caused by the loss of tropical forest cover.

For many African countries commercial logging has been an important source of revenue. But the bulk of export earnings from timber has now been lost in such countries as the Côte d'Ivoire, Nigeria, the Gambia, Senegal, Togo and Benin.

Many governments clear rainforests in a bid to expand their agricultural economy. Such policies appear to ignore the nature of the forests, which have their nutrients locked in such a way that removal of the tree cover leads to a rapid deterioration of the soil into coarse scrub and unusable grassland.

Thus the two main causes of forest destruction have not proved to be sound long-term economic designs.

If there is any hopeful indicator for the future of the rainforests, it is that the international development agencies, environmental bodies and human rights organisations are now making common cause in slowing the pace of deforestation — Lion features.

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U.S. expected to rely more on oil imports from Mideast

NEW YORK (R) — The United States, faced with mounting demand for oil while domestic production dwindles, will boost imports from OPEC producers by about 500,000 barrels a day in 1989 and again in 1990, according to U.S. oil analysts.

The rise means heavier U.S. dependence on Mideast imports, heightening concerns of a supply disruption in the 1990s, they said. "Almost all of the increase will come from Mideast," said Adam Sieminski, analyst with County NatWest/Washington Analysis Corp.

In 1989 the United States will import about 40 per cent of its total oil needs, up from 37 per cent in 1988, according to statistics from the Department of

Energy. U.S. consumption is expected to rise about one per cent in 1989 over the previous year, while output falls at more than twice that rate, say analysts. If the trends continue, the United States will import more than 50 per cent of its oil needs by the mid-1990s.

Low oil prices and the expensive costs of finding oil in the well-explored United States have caused domestic production to falter. Last year U.S. oil wells pumped an average of 8.1 million barrels per day (b/d), down from an all-time high of 9.6 million b/d in 1970.

"Right now it's not a clear and present danger, but it is a sobering situation, and the problem of rising dependence on Mideast oil will probably accelerate," said Sieminski. "If it continues along the same path, we will increase the possibility of supply disruptions."

Most of the U.S. imports come from Arab members of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).

For the first 10 months of 1988, oil from Arab members of OPEC accounted for 29 per cent of U.S. net oil imports, up from 22 per cent in 1987, according to figures provided by the Department of Energy.

Imports from the Gulf, which tripled in 1986 when oil prices topped, will make up the bulk of any future increase in total U.S. oil imports because that region has few production constraints and can easily raise exports when demand picks up, industry experts said.

"Increasing reliance on OPEC oil — particularly from the Middle East — strengthens the relative power of these countries to control world oil prices," the American Petroleum Institute said in a recent paper on energy security.

"The history of the last 15 years suggests that price shocks and supply interruptions are increasingly probable as demand

risers relative to supply," the paper said.

As demand for oil picks up, consuming nations will be forced to turn to the Mideast because it has about 75 per cent of total surplus production capacity and 70 per cent of non-communist oil reserves, U.S. oil analysts said. "The Mideast can produce oil at a much lower price than we can," said Sarah Emerson, an analyst with Energy Security Analysis Inc. "Other countries (that we import from) like Venezuela have some production constraints."

As long as world prices remain below 1985 levels of \$25 to \$30 a barrel, U.S. imports will grow, analysts said.

On the New York Mercantile Exchange, the U.S. benchmark grade of crude oil, West Texas Intermediate, has been trading in a range of \$17 to \$19 a barrel this month. Early Wednesday it was trading just above \$19 on the futures market.

The Commerce Department recently concluded that falling U.S. production, rising imports and growing non-communist world dependence on potentially insecure sources of supply raised concerns about vulnerability to a major oil supply disruption.

Despite the finding, President Reagan, on the recommendation of the secretary of commerce, said no action should be taken to adjust U.S. oil imports.

President-elect Bush has said he is opposed to an oil import fee.

The Commerce Department said U.S. energy security would be reestablished by the decontrol of natural gas prices, increasing the strategic petroleum reserve, the U.S.-Canada free trade agreement and the diversity of oil import sources.

"But it looks as if the trend is moving back toward a dependence on OPEC oil and especially on oil from the Mideast," said Sieminski. "Given the volatility of the area, it does raise some concerns for national security."

Reagan authorises oil operations in Libya

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Ronald Reagan authorised American oil companies Thursday to resume doing business in Libya, after a three-year hiatus.

The ex-president said the move was necessary "to protect U.S. interests" there.

Reagan's decision "will eliminate the significant financial windfall which Libya has been receiving" under an agreement that five oil companies signed with Colonel Muammar Qadhafi's government in 1986, White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater said in a statement.

At the time that the administration imposed broad-ranging economic sanctions against Libya three years ago, the Treasury Department authorised the oil companies to negotiate so-called "standstill agreements" with Qadhafi's government.

These contracts provided for a suspension of operations of the U.S. oil companies in Libya to protect the firms from charges of default on their contractual obligations to Libya's state-owned oil company.

U.S. officials and business executives have voiced concern that if the U.S. companies remain prohibited from operating in Libya when these agreements expire June 30 Qadhafi may follow through on threats to seize their assets.

Under the standstill agreements, the five American firms — Amerasia, Hess, Conoco, W.R. Grace, Occidental Petroleum and Marathon Oil — had won a recognition by Libya of their 49 per cent interest in the state-owned oil company.

Under the pacts, Libya since 1986 has continued to extract oil from the American facilities while at the same time making the profits.

"The effect of the decision will be to permit the U.S. oil companies, subject to the restrictions on trade and travel which remain in effect, to resume their operations in Libya, transfer operations to foreign subsidiaries or sell their assets," the White House statement said.

Probe uncovers massive fraud at exchanges

CHICAGO (R) — Federal agents posing as traders have uncovered multimillion-dollar fraud at the world's two largest commodities exchanges.

A probe that could rival the Wall Street insider trading scandal, a source close to the probe said Thursday.

More than 150 brokers, traders and industry executives could be indicted, the source told Reuters. The Chicago Board of Trade and the Chicago Mercantile Exchange, where contracts worth

billions of dollars are traded daily, had no comment on the report.

U.S. Attorney General Dick Thornburgh, asked by reporters in Washington if he had been briefed on the investigation, said: "We don't have any comment on that."

Newspapers carrying banner headlines about the investigation were snapped up by floor traders and clerks who stood in stunned groups discussing the report. The price of a seat on the board of

Interest rates go up in Europe

LONDON (R) — European nations raised interest rates for the second time in a month Thursday but failed to dent bullish sentiment for the dollar, posing a major dilemma for the industrial world's policy-makers.

A coordinated round of rate rises in Europe was backed up with heavy sales of the U.S. currency by central banks but economists said neither weapon appeared to have impressed the foreign exchange market and the dollar remained strong.

Failure to stop the currency's new year rally is likely to put more pressure on the United States to tackle its huge budget deficit at a meeting of the Group of seven (G-7) industrial nations expected to take place in Washington in two weeks' time.

"Business confidence and the stock markets have stood up to interest rate rises in Europe well so far," said Richard Reid, chief European economist at brokers UBS-Phillips and Drew.

"But there is a limit and we now run the danger of becoming locked into a competitive round of rate rises," he noted.

The G-7 — the United States,

Japan, West Germany, Britain, France, Canada and Italy — are likely to meet in Washington Feb. 3 to discuss coordination of economic policy with President George Bush's new team.

But far from being a routine "get-to-know-you" session, finance ministers and central bank governors face a dilemma of how to stop the dollar now their two main policy tools, currency intervention and interest rates, appear not to have worked.

The round of European rate rises, one month after an earlier tightening of policy, was aimed at stemming the dollar's rise and heading off inflation generated by higher import prices.

The Swiss National Bank moved first Thursday, raising its key discount and Lombard rates by half a point to four and six per cent respectively and taking the unusual step of leading the West German Bundesbank by some four hours.

But economists said the drive for tighter policy still came principally from the Bundesbank which also pushed its two similar rates up half a percentage point to the

same level. European monetary sources said the European move, which excluded Britain, was closely coordinated. Rates were also raised in Austria, France and the Netherlands, while the Belgian National Bank said it might follow suit Friday.

"The Bundesbank is the driving force behind this," said Reid. "There is no doubt about it."

In theory, a rise in European rates should narrow the gap with higher levels of interest in the United States and make the dollar less attractive to investors or speculators.

But the U.S. currency, which has soared to 3½ month highs against the West German currency, dipped only briefly despite the rate rises and a wave of central bank selling. It recovered in the late European afternoon to trade around 1.8650 marks.

The Group of Seven is widely believed to have set an upper limit on the dollar of about 1.90 marks, meaning policy-makers face a series of tough options if the currency remains strong.

Ideally, bullish sentiment might be deflated if the new Bush administration tackled the U.S. budget deficit decisively.

That, economists argue, could choke off excess domestic demand in the American economy, dampen inflation fears and allow a reduction in U.S. interest rates.

Jim O'Neill, economist at Swiss Bank Corp Investment Banking Ltd in London, said he expected the U.S. Federal Reserve (Fed), the central bank, might now decide it had to ease its policy a notch in coming days to cut away some support from the dollar.

"The Fed could decide to ease up a little," he said.

Richard Darman, U.S. budget director, hinted along the same lines in Washington, saying that eliminating the deficit should lower interest rates. But he added the size of decline was difficult to forecast.

Economists said the European rate rise could sour the atmosphere at Group of Seven talks, with the Bundesbank clearly showing now that it would not tolerate a higher dollar.

The central bank's move also seemed to fly in the face of the Bonn finance ministry which had been arguing against a rise in West German rates on political grounds, economists said.

There had been growing suspicions in Europe that Washington was happy to see a firmer dollar since it would help the Fed clamp down on inflation.

"There was some talk that West Germany and the United States kiss and make up at the G-7," said Reid. "But Thursday's move is a clear statement that the Bundesbank does not like the dollar at this level."

Egypt rejects demands for big interest hike

CAIRO (R) — Egypt wants a deal with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and fresh debt rescheduling with Western governments but rejects IMF demands for a big rise in domestic interest rates, a top official said.

Osama Al Baz, political adviser to President Hosni Mubarak, said nearly doubling interest rates from 13 or 14 per cent to 25 per cent, as demanded by the fund, would fuel inflation and cut investment.

Baz's comments, in an interview published Friday by the French-language daily Journal d'Egypte, came as Cairo prepared for more talks on an IMF standby credits accord vital to underpin fresh debt rescheduling.

He said Egypt would not oppose a rise of one or two per cent in interest rates but rejected

a hike to 25 per cent.

This did not mean, however, that it was against all cooperation. "It is in our interests to conclude a debt rescheduling agreement for 1989... with creditor countries," he said.

Egypt's foreign debt, mainly to governments in the informal Paris Club of Western creditors, totals more than \$43 billion.

Cairo's plan to reschedule about \$4 billion in repayments in the fiscal year which started last July hinges on an IMF agreement.

Government ministers say they expect a deal by April despite differences with the fund on interest rates and other issues including the pace of steps Egypt should take to cut its budget deficit.

Yugoslavia announces new price increases

BEIGRADE (AP) — Yugoslavs, already frustrated by a sharp fall in living standards, were hit Thursday by a new wave of price increases on more than 300 goods and services, including gasoline, diesel fuel and other oil derivatives, averaging 28.58 per cent.

A litre (0.26 gallons) of high-octane gasoline went up by 31 per cent, and now costs 2,260 dinars (41 cents). The litre price of regular gasoline jumped from 1,610 dinars (29 cents) to 2,120 dinars (39 cents) and diesel fuel rose from 1,420 dinars (26 cents) to 1,850 dinars (34 cents).

Average Yugoslav monthly wages amounts to the equivalent of about \$80.

The National Petroleum Company attributed the increase to a 36.62 per cent depreciation of the dinar against the U.S. dollar since the last fuel price hike on Nov. 12, which makes foreign oil purchases more expensive in the local currency.

Yugoslavs were hit as of the start of this year by an unprecedented wave of price hikes for

about 1,000 goods and services ranging from 30 to 70 per cent. The increases applied to food, drinks, clothing, cosmetics and nearly all services.

The hikes further boosted the country's rampant inflation which recorded 251 per cent for 1988. Living standards have dropped by half since 1980 and have fallen to the level of mid-1960s, according to official statistics.

The statistics also say that nearly 70 per cent of Yugoslav workers live in a state of "existential minimum."

A record of nearly 1,400 strikes, seriously threatening the country's communist system, were officially registered last year, amid public calls for the introduction of a multi-party system as a solution to the protracted Yugoslav crisis.

Marjan Orožen, president of the country's state-run trade union, was quoted Thursday as saying that "social tensions and discontent of the people could at any moment cause an explosion" of labour unrest.

Japan-S. Africa trade declines; Bonn tops list

TOKYO (Agencies) — The foreign ministry expressed pleasure Thursday at a report showing Japan's trade with South Africa dropped 3.5 per cent last year so that this country no longer is in the hot spot of Pretoria's biggest trading partner.

The decline followed efforts starting last April to ask the private sector "to go with as much restraint as possible" in trading with South Africa, said foreign ministry spokesman Yoshifumi Matsuda.

"We are very happy with the result," he said at a regular briefing for foreign reporters.

"We are no more the no. 1 country," he said, identifying West Germany as taking that spot since its two-way trade for the first 10 months of 1988 was reported at \$4.19 billion.

Japan's trade for the entire year was reported as 3.98 billion, down 3.5 per cent from 1987, when Japan overtook the United States as Pretoria's biggest trading partner with \$4.12 billion.

The no. 1 position embarrassed Japan, which opposes South Africa's apartheid policy of racial separation, and it contributed to increasing criticism of Japan by American blacks.

Matsuda noted that Japan's ranking as a major trading partner of South Africa depends not only on efforts to cut back Japanese trade but also on what other countries do. He said there would be "constant efforts to decrease" such trade.

On a customs-clearance basis, the foreign ministry said Japan's

imports from South Africa fell by 14.5 per cent last year to \$1.93 billion, and its exports to South Africa rose by 9.8 per cent to \$2.05 billion.

Japan's new ranking in trade with South Africa will be known late next month when trade statistics in other countries for 1988 are released.

Since 1985, the Japanese government has taken a series of measures to pressure Pretoria to end its apartheid system. It currently bans all direct investment by local firms, limits cultural, sports and tourism exchanges, and also bans selling computers that might be used to enforce the apartheid system.

Last year, the government asked major companies trading with South Africa to practice self-control out of fear that Japan might provoke resentment among anti-apartheid countries unless its trading with Pretoria showed a decline.

Total two-way trade between West Germany and South Africa rose 35.8 per cent to \$3.15 billion in the eight months to the end of August last year against \$2.12 billion in the same period of 1987, according to ministry of economics figures released by the West German embassy in Pretoria.

West Germany's imports from South Africa during the eight-month period climbed by 30.2 per cent to \$1.06 billion while exports to South Africa jumped by 38.8 per cent to \$2.08 billion. An embassy official said trade figures for all of 1988 were not yet available.

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AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Thursday, Jan. 19, 1989
Central Bank official rates

	Buy	Sell	French franc	76.6	77.0
U.S. dollar	488.0	490.0	Japanese yen (for 100)	378.2	380.1
Pound Sterling	855.9	860.2	Dutch guilder	231.3	232.5
Deutschemark	261.1	262.4	Swedish crown	76.9	77.3
Swiss franc	307.4	308.9	Italian lira (for 100)	35.7	35.9
			Belgian franc (for 10)	124.8	125.4

Amman Financial Market weekly trading

Following is a summary of trading during last week and the previous week:

	Jan. 14-18	Jan. 7-11
Daily average	JD 1,350,412	JD 1,156,632
Total volume	JD 6,752,059	JD 5,783,164
Total shares	5,399,221	3,786,418
No. of contracts	4,287	3,865
Sectoral trading:		
Industrial	JD 4,532,201 (67.1%)	JD 3,956,869 (68.4%)
Financial	JD 1,798,989 (26.6%)	JD 1,666,337 (28.8%)
Service	(4.3%)	(3.7%)
Insurance	(0.2%)	(0.1%)
Share price index	126.1	125.0
No. of companies	67	58
Price movement (rise)	37	34
(decline)	14	14
(stable)	16	10

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Friday.

One Sterling	1.7625/35	U.S. dollar
One U.S. dollar	1.1863/73	Canadian dollar
	1.8485/95	Deutschemark
	2.0845/55	Dutch guilder
	1.5718/25	Swiss franc
	38.69/72	Belgian franc
	6.2975/3025	French franc
	1354/1355	Italian lire
	128.32/42	Japanese yen
	6.2925/3025	Swedish crown
	6.7050/7150	Norwegian crown
	7.1625/1725	Danish crown
One ounce of gold	404.20/404.70	U.S. dollars

Graf moves up, Wilander out

MELBOURNE (AP) — Defending champion Steffi Graf just missed a second straight shutout at the Australian Open Friday, trouncing American Marianne Werdel 6-0, 6-1 to move into the fourth round of the Grand Slam tennis tournament.

Graf, who blanked Rene Simpson of Canada in the previous round, eliminated Werdel in 47 minutes. The Grand Slam winner won the first 11 games before Werdel finally held serve.

Graf has lost only four games in her first three matches.

Sixth-seeded Zina Garrison also cruised into the fourth round with a 6-0, 6-0 victory over fellow American Kim Kessaris.

Ivan Lendl, who can regain the no. 1 ranking by winning the men's title, moved into the third round by beating West German David Prinos 6-2, 6-0, 6-3.

Also advancing were two-time champion Stefan Edberg of Sweden, 11th-seeded Thomas Muster of Austria and no. 16 Andrei Medvedev.

Edberg downed Heiner Moring of West Germany 6-4, 7-5, 7-5. Muster beat Paul Wexler of Kenya 4-6, 7-6 (7-3), 6-2, 6-3 and Medvedev ousted American Richard Matsuzaki 6-2, 6-2, 7-5.

In women's play, no. 6 Nicole Pietrangeli of Australia rallied to defeat 16-year-old American Amy Frazier 3-6, 6-4, 6-3 and set up a fourth-round meeting with Graf.

Lendl moved into position to regain the top ranking he held for three years, when smooth-swinging Ramesh Krishnan of India stunned no. 1 Mats Wilander 6-3, 6-2, 7-6 (7-5) Thursday.

The second-round defeat, Wilander's earliest at a Grand Slam tournament in four years, left him contemplating a break from the sport.

"I just don't enjoy playing right now," said Wilander, who won three of the four Grand Slam titles last year. "I can't seem to get motivated."

"Winning the U.S. Open was such a big thing for me. After that, nothing really seemed im-

portant."

Wilander's problems started after he took over the no. 1 ranking by beating Lendl in last year's U.S. Open final.

A few weeks later, the Swede lost a first-round match in Paris. That was followed by a third-round defeat in Stockholm, an early exit at the masters and a disheartening loss to West German Carl-Uwe Steeb in the Davis Cup final.

Wilander's motivational problems were glaringly apparent against Krishnan, a smooth-

stroking Indian whose father was a Wimbledon semifinalist in 1960 and 1961.

Krishnan, 27, ranked 51st in the world, baffled Wilander with his grab-bag arsenal of off-speed shots and forced the defending champion into a series of uncharacteristic errors.

Super Bowl: the key players

MIAMI (AP) — The millions of fans who watch Sunday's Super Bowl will concentrate on Joe Montana and Boomer Esiason, Roger Craig and Ickey Woods and Jerry Rice and Eddie Brown.

But if their flash and panache takes a crash, it will be because someone who weighs 122 kilograms or so is — or isn't — doing his job.

"Right up front is where the

game will be decided," Cincinnati coach Sam Wyche said Thursday as his Bengals and the San Francisco 49ers went through their final sessions with the news media.

"Both teams have a lot of high-profile guys in the backfield and at the other skill positions, but it's the up-front guys who will make the holes for Roger Craig and Ickey Woods to run through. That's how it will be settled."

That may be the focus in Sunday's National Football League championship game, called the Super Bowl, but Thursday's was on the secondaries — or rather on their mouths.

The principal antagonists were the respective left cornerbacks, San Francisco's Tim McKyer and Cincinnati's Lewis Billups.

McKyer, who has been soundbitten all week, predicted on Wednesday that the 49ers would win easily, 28-10. He said Billups

Clough says he would do it again

LONDON (R) — Nottingham Forest manager Brian Clough said in a newspaper interview published Friday he would again strike fans who invaded the pitch at his English first division soccer club.

Under the front page headline "I'd do it again", Clough said in the Sun newspaper: "If I catch spectators on my pitch in future I know exactly what I'll do. They'll get another clip round the ear hole."

Clough is at the centre of a major row after striking four spectators who were among about 200 who invaded the pitch at the end of Wednesday's League Cup tie with Queen's Park Rangers.

Clough said in the newspaper he offered his resignation to the club chairman but it was rejected.

"I don't think you'll see two better players at the same position in one game," says San Francisco coach Bill Walsh.

Billups shot back: "McKyer has no class. He talks too much and he's more immature than anyone else here."

When the real war is decided Sunday, it's likely to be because of the battle up front between two teams that want to run — the Bengals led the National Football League in rushing; and the 49ers were second.

Both teams have outstanding nose tackles — the Bengals' Tim Krumrie was first-team all-pro and San Francisco's Michael Carter was second. Each will start for his conference in the pro bowl.

"I don't think you'll see two better players at the same position in one game," says San Francisco coach Bill Walsh.

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY, JANUARY 21, 1989

YOUR DAILY HOROSCOPE

— As Charted By The Carroll Righter Astrological Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: The full moon today will be in Leo. Expect some smooth, but energy-packed excitement. Many people will be in a friendly, playful mood. Remember an over-confident attitude can cause accidents.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Harmony on the homefront sets the stage for a pleasant day. Contact those with similar interests for relaxation and fun.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Creative projects will come together if you accept your first idea as the best one. Self-doubt can interfere with completion.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Talk over plans with your mate and accept feedback. Contact friends for a social get-together. Retire for the night at a reasonable hour.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) If the first part of this day falls short of expectations, you will find later activities stimulating and enlightening.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) No matter how you divide up household chores, someone is bound to be unhappy. Your mate's love is a splendid counterbalance.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Avoid getting upset by other hotheads around you. Plan for a quiet evening with someone you love and add a touch of originality.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) A surprise visit will highlight the day. Use your imagination and plan for

"The Stars impel; they do not compel." What you make of your life is largely up to you.

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THE Daily Crossword by Elizabeth Arthur

ACROSS:

- Church seats
- Slovakian abbr.
- Celebrations
- "I smell"
- "Or — I Sing"
- Supper
- Crew
- Pilots
- Shrimp
- Having claws
- Fork part
- Heaven
- Social
- Assiduous
- Tool sets
- Soitable
- Stew
- "A Day at the (Marx film)
- Spill
- Celebrity cash
- Shaver
- Antiques
- Pierre's pal
- "— Lescaut"
- Nautical word
- Social
- Southern constellation
- Consecrate
- Give up
- Seed covering
- Charming end
- Albert
- Like some shoes
- Ranch rope
- Circus
- Features
- Musical group
- First-class
- Person
- Flowers
- Regretted
- Ages and ages

DOWN:

- Home of
- Land's edge
- Play a needle
- Try
- Wicked
- Stage part
- Circus men
- Thousand
- Days
- Treat clouds
- for rain
- Pelts
- Fall bloomers
- First-rate
- Tragic artists
- Musical toy
- Religious
- Image
- Abductor of
- Helan
- Pinball
- State
- Poster
- Shout show
- Shepetone
- Socrates
- Land's edge
- Play a needle
- Try
- Wicked
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- Musical toy
- Religious
- Image
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- Helan
- Pinball
- State
- Poster
- Shout show

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Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

ACROSS: 1. Church seats 2. Slovakian abbr. 3. Celebrations 4. "I smell" 5. "Or — I Sing" 6. Supper 7. Crew 8. Pilots 9. Shrimp 10. Having claws 11. Fork part 12. Heaven 13. Social 14. Assiduous 15. Tool sets 16. Soitable 17. Stew 18. "A Day at the (Marx film) 19. Spill 20. Celebrity cash 21. Shaver 22. Antiques 23. Pierre's pal 24. "— Lescaut" 25. Nautical word 26. Social 27. Southern constellation 28. Consecrate 29. Give up 30. Seed covering 31. Charming end 32. Albert 33. Like some shoes 34. Ranch rope 35. Circus 36. Features 37. Musical group 38. First-class 39. Person 40. Flowers 41. Regretted 42. Ages and ages

DOWN: 1. Home of 2. Land's edge 3. Play a needle 4. Try 5. Wicked 6. Stage part 7. Circus men 8. Thousand 9. Days 10. Treat clouds 11. for rain 12. Pelts 13. Fall bloomers 14. First-rate 15. Tragic artists 16. Musical toy 17. Religious 18. Image 19. Abductor of 20. Helan 21. Pinball 22. State 23. Poster 24. Shout show

World Cup qualifiers: Jordan 2, Oman 0

Yadaj gives Jordan hope

By John West
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Jordan salvaged national pride and revived their World Cup chances by a convincing 2-0 victory over visitors Oman, in a cold and drizzly match at the King Hussein Sports City Friday. Striker Nart Yadaj, a substitute in last week's game against Iraq, seized his chance of a regular place in the side by scoring both goals and heading Jordan's attack.

Meanwhile, Iraq's loss to Qatar in Doha pruned open the top of the qualifying group. Qatar now have 5 points from three games, Iraq 3, and Jordan and Oman two apiece. With each team having three games left, any one of them could now come top of the group. Only one team qualifies for the World Cup finals.

Apart from Yadaj, the Jordanian line up was altered by the presence of Arif Hussain for Khalid Awad, out for personal reasons despite a fine performance last week, while new goalkeeper Azzam Hashemi replaced the unfortunate Milad Abbasi.

The match opened with fast and furious running play, with attacks running relentlessly from goalmouth to goalmouth. Both sides, however, lacked finishing power, with only three significant shots at goal in the first quarter of an hour, and none of them on target. Said Farad volleyed over the bar for Oman, while Jamal Abu Abid put the ball just past Omani goalkeeper Yusuf Obeid's left post.

Lack of ball control was the key to this indecisiveness; neither attack could lay on enough first time passes, or dribble the ball quickly enough to set up close range untrammelled shots. Break away runs would falter just outside the penalty area until the pack arrived, when short passing

in crowded areas would inevitably lead to loss of possession, the defence blocking the ball out of play, or a snatched half-chance from 30 metres. Both sides also played for offside, forcing each other's attack back into midfield by pushing their defenders forward.

But Yadaj broke the deadlock in the 33rd minute. Faiz Bdwe's teasing freekick: from near the left-hand touchline curled away and past the outstretching Omani goalkeeper, leaving Yadaj with a short range first-time chance which he rammed to low. The crowd, a little subdued until then, went into ecstasy, and electrified



Rising star: Nart Yadaj (white kit, in the middle) on his way to his first goal Friday

the Jordanian team's performance for the rest of the first half. Two minutes later, Muhammad Haz Ali tested Obeid by trying to loft the ball over him from 20 metres. In the 39th minute Arif Hussain nudged the ball down just wide from an elegant cross by Jamal Abu Abid, who had streaked down the right wing. Tawfiq Al Sahib thundered a first time volley from 35 metres which had Obeid at full stretch on the ground to save it. Jordan were at this stage mounting a serious attack virtually every minute, making a shambles of the Omani defence in a display of first class attacking football.

The second goal came just before half-time. Yadaj volleyed on the turn from 25 metres into the bottom left corner of the net, taking Obeid totally by surprise and leaving Jordan 2-0 up at half-time.

The second half was disappointing. Jordan seemed to lose their momentum and Oman remained disordered, not scoring a shot on target until the 27th minute of the half. Play became rough as three players were

booked, and foul victims allowed their tempers to flare. Syrian referee Nizar Wati failed to impose his authority on the players, who engaged in reckless challenges, with boots frequently at head height, and disrupted his decisions.

Jihad Abdul Mun'am missed the best opportunity of the half from only ten metres in the 70th minute and was soon after replaced by substitute Ratib Daoud. Izzat Hashim proved both his skill and his mettle in several late challenges, and Nart Yadaj continued to cause the Omani defence problems. In the last minute, he skillfully defeated two defenders inside the box only to flunk the pass to Bdwe in front of the goalmouth. The final whistle came without either side really giving the impression that they could have achieved more.

Nevertheless, Jordan thoroughly deserved what was a convincing victory, and the crowd, estimated at 4-5,000 went home happy. All eyes will now focus on next week's home match against group leaders Qatar.

Qatar leads group one

DOHA (AP) — Qatar beat Iraq 1-0 in a spectacular match. Mahmoud Al-Soufi netted the lone goal in the 82nd minute off a neat pass by Saleh Eid, after Qatar had kept control of the ball for most of the match.

Fahd Al-Kuwari and Saleh Eid both missed scoring chances in the first half, as did Mohammed Daham in the 55th.

The experienced Iraq side under Adnan Darjal found their attacks blocked by a tight Qatar defence.

The visitors rarely looked threatening except for a last-ditch attempt to level the score in the final 5 minutes.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SHARIF
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ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠AKJ952 ♠Q93 07 ♠A62
Partner opens the bidding with one no trump. What do you respond?
A.—If you only count points, you have a maximum raise to two no trump. However, you have a reasonable five-card suit and excellent intermediates, which make your hand worth more like 11 than 9. Jump to three no trump.

Q.2—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠AKJ952 ♠Q93 07 ♠A62
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass
What do you bid now?
A.—Be careful. Partner might have been forced to respond one no trump with a singleton spade. You have a six-loser hand, and unless partner can bid again voluntarily, chances of game are slim. Be content with a two-spade rebid.

Q.3—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠KQ10 ♠K93 ♠865 ♠AQJ6
Partner opens the bidding with one spade. What do you respond?
A.—Whether you play four or five-card majors, you should have four-card support for a jump raise of partner's suit. Thus, under either circumstance, you should make a waiting bid of two clubs, then jump raise spades at your next turn.

Q.4—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠K54 ♠KQ95 ♠KJ42 ♠AK

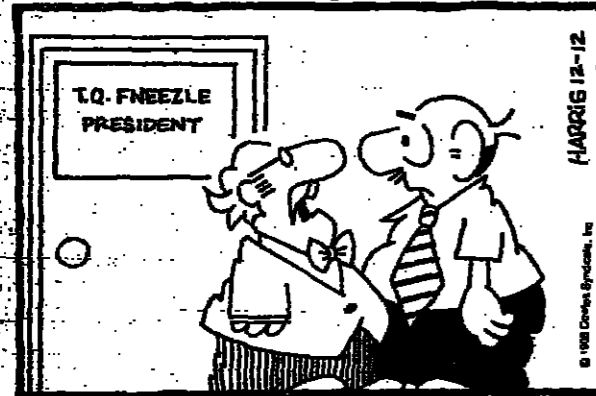
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass
What do you bid now?
A.—You have 19 high-card points, a balanced hand and stoppers in every suit. Partner has shown a minimum of 7 for his raise, so you should have enough for game. Jump to three no trump. Don't bid 2 NT and invite partner to do what you should have done yourself.

Q.5—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠AKJ952 ♠Q93 07 ♠A62
Your right-hand opponent opens the bidding with one heart. What should you take?
A.—You could have the best hand at the table, but there's nothing you can do. You can't make a takeout double without spades, and your club suit is nowhere near good enough for an overcall.

Q.6—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠AKJ952 ♠Q93 07 ♠A62
The bidding has proceeded:
East South West North
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
What action do you take?
A.—Little has changed, except for the fact that you have learned that the enemy probably has the balance of power. A double of two hearts here would be penalty-oriented (you could have doubled one heart for takeout), and any bid could be inviting the enemy to hand your head to you on a silver platter.

THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris



"My doctor told me to kick your behind 100 times a day. It's my executive fitness program."

JUMBLE.

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
by Henry Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

DAHEA

BICAN

SCOFIA

PIMNED

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here:

(Answers Monday)

Yesterday's Jumbles: AGENT EIGHT GENTRY MORRID
Answer: She was always sure to keep a secret—GOING

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Dutch held to surprise draw by Spain in hockey

LUCKNOW, India (R) — The Netherlands, favourites to recapture their title, were held to a surprise 1-1 draw by Spain in a rough group A match in the India Gandhi Gold Cup men's hockey championship Tuesday. In the other group match, defending champions Pakistan took a one-point lead over the Dutch by trouncing Malaysia 5-1.

Frenchwoman wins World Cup Super-G

TIGNES, France (AP) — Carole Merle of France won the World Cup super-giant slalom ski race Friday, edging Austrians Anita Wachter and Sigrid Wolf for her third victory of the season. The Frenchwoman was clocked in 1 minute 17.34 seconds. Wachter finished in 1:17.60 and Wolf was timed in 1:17.67. Merle's third win in three Super-Gs this season assures her of victory in the event even before the final race of the season at steamboat springs in Colorado.

Apocalyptic court hearings

NEW YORK (AP) — Boxing promoter Don King has culminated a four-hour deposition by testifying that Bill Cayton was "Satan" and then erupted into an explosive-filled tirade. At Mike Tyson's manager. Testifying Wednesday in the heavyweight champion's lawsuit against Cayton and the widow of Jimmy Jacobs, Tyson's deceased co-manager, King lost control of

himself at the end of the day. "Mr. Cayton is an inveterate liar," King testified while Cayton sat across the table. "He's a tyrant, a despot, a power zealot. ... he's an egotistical maniac. Nobody likes Bill Cayton. He's never been liked by anybody. ... everybody loved Jim. Everybody hates you. You're the most hated man in boxing. ... no sooner than Jim died, he went completely berserk. I said he's Satan in disguise. The disguise is gone. He's just Satan."

A pudgy Tyson opens camp to reporters

LAS VEGAS (R) — Heavyweight champion Mike Tyson said Thursday his training for next month's title fight with Britain's Frank Bruno is his toughest since becoming champion and he vowed to fight every six months from now on. Tyson, who had kept his camp closed to reporters presumably because he was very overweight, talked to members of the media on Thursday for the first time since arriving here to train for the Feb. 25 fight. The undefeated champion said he weighed 224 pounds (101.6 kg), down from the 242 pounds (109.7 kg) which he said he weighed when he began training in December. But the 22-year-old champion appeared pudgy around the middle and some camp sources said Tyson actually weighed 110.6 kg down from the 118.8 kg he had ballooned to since his last fight in June 1988 when he knocked out Michael Spinks in just 91 seconds of the first round. "This is the toughest training I've had since I was champion," Tyson said. "I'm never going to layoff this long again. I'm going to fight every six months."

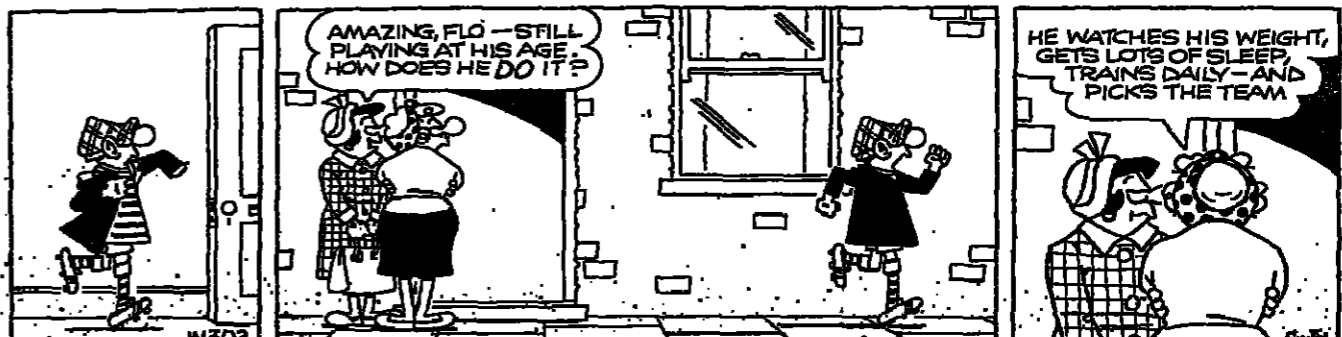
Peanuts



Mutt'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



ASEAN wants Chinese, Soviet role in Kampuchea peace drive

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN (Agencies) — Non-communist South-East Asian nations may invite China and the Soviet Union for talks with warring Kampuchean factions to help end the 10-year conflict, Malaysian Foreign Minister Abu Hassan Omar said Friday.

The Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) would also push for a supervisory body to verify an orderly withdrawal of Vietnamese troops from Kampuchea and to ensure "checks and balances" in Kampuchea, he said.

"We are hopeful that in so far as the Kampuchean problem is concerned, we should see a solution this year since the time is ripe for a solution," Abu Hassan told reporters in the Brunei capital Bandar Seri Begawan.

ASEAN backs a three-party

guerrilla coalition fighting the Phnom Penh government installed by Vietnam after it invaded Kampuchea in 1978 to oust the Khmer Rouge government. Vietnam has said it would withdraw its troops, which it says number 50,000, by September if a political settlement were reached.

Foreign ministers from Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand are meeting here Saturday to discuss recent developments which could lead to peace in Kampuchea.

The one-day session will also prepare for a second round of so-called informal talks among the warring Kampuchean factions in Jakarta next month.

ASEAN may enlarge these talks "or go towards an international conference," Abu Hassan said.

"We might involve a few other parties like China and the Soviet Union and a few others that are able to contribute towards furthering our cause," he said.

China, the main backer of the largest Kampuchean guerrilla faction, the Khmer Rouge, held direct talks on Kampuchea with Vietnam Thursday.

Asked about guarantees for the withdrawal of Vietnamese troops, estimated by Western diplomats to number over 80,000 in Kampuchea now, Abu Hassan said:

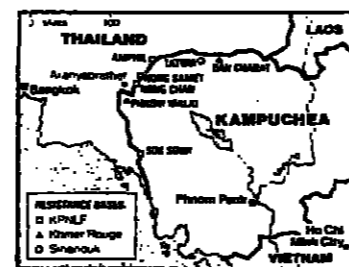
"The idea is that there should be some form of checks and balances that will enable us to verify what is going on in the ground. We should think of a suitable mechanism to do so."

ASEAN would like a supervisory body to oversee the withdrawal and the establishment of an interim government and would be prepared to be part of such a body.

Western governments estimate up to a million people were executed or died as a result of Khmer Rouge rule from April 1975 to January 1979.

ASEAN wanted to see a non-aligned government return to Kampuchea, Abu Hassan said. "We will not give up until it is achieved."

Hanoi-Peking talks
Vietnam Friday said talks with



China on negotiating peace in Kampuchea occurred in a "friendly atmosphere" after a decade of often-bitter relations.

Vietnam also said in a statement that its foreign minister would meet soon with his Chinese counterpart.

A Vietnamese spokesman said first Deputy Foreign Minister Dinh Nho Liem returned to Vietnam Friday after five days of negotiations in Peking.

The visit, which both sides initially tried to keep secret, was the first by a high-ranking Vietnamese official to China in more than nine years.

Liem discussed Vietnam's 10-year-old occupation of Kampuchea.

Czech riot police beat demonstrators

PRAGUE (R) — Czechoslovak riot police charged into a crowd of more than 2,000 demonstrators, severely beating many in the fifth successive day of political protest in Prague.

At least eight ambulances circled Wenceslas Square picking up the injured after truncheon-wielding security forces stormed into the area, in some of the worst scenes witnessed in Prague since protests began last August on the 20th anniversary of the Soviet-led invasion of Czechoslovakia.

More than 40 people were hauled away in police vans and buses.

The baton charges began 30 minutes after demonstrators chanted demands for free elections and the release of political prisoners.

Amid screams of "Gestapo", the officers pinned dozens of people to the ground and beat them repeatedly with truncheons.

of some, and which, if they should recur, would show the fragility of the commitments undertaken," French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas told the conference's closing session in an apparent reference to events in Prague.

Prague Mayor Zdenek Horský said in a statement broadcast on national television after the protests: "People understand the necessity of the resolute action."

Several citizens appeared on the evening news complaining of disorders caused by five consecutive days of demonstrations in the square, where many of the capital's hotels, shops, and cinemas are located.

"Do the anti-state elements who have their mouths full of 'human rights' realise that they are violating our human rights by preventing us from going shopping," said an irate letter published in Mlada Fronta, the daily of the socialist youth union.

Police cordoned off streets leading into the central square leaving little chance for demonstrators to flee.

After emptying the square, police used searchlights to check scaffolding on buildings undergoing renovation to ensure no one remained. Lines of officers brandishing batons and riot shields later patrolled the area.

FAO makes breakthrough for Third World

ROME (R) — United Nations officials said Thursday they had discovered how to make bread without wheat, a breakthrough to help developing countries end their dependence on imported grain.

The discovery was described by U.N. Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) chief Edouard Saouma as "a ray of hope for much of the developing world, particularly for those poor nations that do not grow wheat or cannot afford to import it."

The greatest difficulty in inventing a new method of making bread was to replace wheat gluten, a substance found in sufficient quantities only in

wheat itself.

The gluten traps the gases created by yeast fermentation to give bread its light texture.

After a long series of experiments Canadian Martin Satin, inventor of the "new bread", found that a gluey, viscous substance to replace wheat gluten can be made merely by boiling some cassava or flour from other local crops such as sorghum and maize in water.

The other ingredients, including yeast, are then added to make a kind of batter rather than dough which is baked to make bread.

Satin, a FAO food technician, told a news conference that developing countries had

become dependent on cheap imported wheat whose consumption had steadily increased while traditional and sometimes more expensive local crops declined.

This had resulted in the removal of local crops from the cash market and created a major obstacle to agricultural development — the only way in which most Third World countries can improve their economies.

In most tropical countries conditions are unsuitable for growing wheat.

FAO wants to reverse the dependence on wheat and revive depressed local crops like cassava, sorghum and maize

but in order to do this it had to find another way of making bread.

"The only major reason for wheat consumption over indigenous crops is its basic ability to make bread. Bread is a universally accepted product, it is very convenient," said Satin, formerly a senior scientist in the wheat industry.

To convince journalists, FAO treated them after the news conference to a snack of cheese and breads made from rice, barley, maize and cassava.

Verdict? The barley bread was a clear winner but all of the new loaves were very edible. Now FAO is planning to give

demonstrations to bakers in developing countries to persuade them to give up wheat, with Sudan, Nigeria and Cuba already involved.

Christian Bonte-Friedheim, assistant director general of FAO's agriculture department, said many developing countries depended on imports of energy and wheat. "If we can help them get any more self-sufficient in one of them we have done well," he said.

Bonte-Friedheim added that the new bread could also improve Third World foreign exchange difficulties and combat a worrying exodus from rural areas.

Yugoslavia names new prime minister

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia (AP) — Yugoslavia's collective presidency Thursday nominated Ante Markovic, a keen supporter of radical market-oriented reforms, as new premier in what was seen as a defeat of the dogmatic faction within the ruling Communist Party.

The decision by the presidency was seen as a slap in the face of Slobodan Milosevic, the hardline Communist Party chief in Yugoslavia's largest republic of Serbia, which nominated its own candidate for the post.

It also showed that reformist and more liberal elements in the Yugoslav Communist Party have won a clear victory over conservative and dogmatic factions. Markovic, who requires formal parliamentary approval, is a former head of Croatia. He was told by the nine-member presidency

to start forming a new cabinet "as soon as possible," the state Tanjug news agency said.

He will succeed Branko Mikulic, who, together with his entire cabinet, resigned last Dec. 30, becoming the first federal government to step down since the communists took power after World War II.

Mikulic's government resigned following its failure to solve the country's numerous social and economic ills, including a 250 per cent annual inflation rate, a \$21-billion foreign debt, a sharp drop in living standards and an alarming increase of labour unrest.

Thursday's terse announcement did not say by which margin Markovic won over the only other candidate, Borisav Jovic, Serbia's nominee and a close associate of Milosevic.

90% of Soviet first pregnancies aborted

MOSCOW (R) — Ninety per cent of all first pregnancies in the Soviet Union end in abortion and hundreds of women die each year as a result of the operation, the weekly Moscow news reported Thursday.

The article by Yekaterina Nikolayeva, a Moscowite who recently had an abortion, said women were treated as though they were on an assembly line, so routine has the operation become in the Soviet capital.

Official figures show there are eight million abortions a year in the Soviet Union. The weekly Ogonyok said last year this was easily the highest rate in the world.

"I wonder if you know that every year between 600 and 700 women die as the result of an abortion in the Russian federation alone... that 90 per cent of all first pregnancies end in abortion," Nikolayeva wrote in Moscow news.

She said there was a shortage of contraceptives and information available to young women on contraceptive methods.

Nikolayeva also gave a scathing description of indifferent and careless doctors who referred her to the abortion clinic and performed the operation.

"Afraid of abortion? Every-one's afraid, my dear. You'll get used to it," she quoted one doctor as saying.

At 10:00 a.m. women queued for abortions outside an operating room, the article continued. "God save you from causing a delay in this conveyor by making a wrong move or asking an irrelevant question," she wrote.

"What are you waiting for? Come on, don't stare" the doctor shouted at me, peeling off his bloodstained rubber gloves... what followed was the clinking of instruments and acute pain," she said, adding that the anaesthetic was weak.

Starship Enterprise sets out for another trek

By Ronald Clarke
Reporter

LOS ANGELES — Actor William Shatner, a glass of green champagne in his hand, stands on the bridge of the Starship Enterprise, ready to take off on yet another voyage to the "Final Frontier."

It is the latest episode in a Hollywood phenomenon — 23 years of "star trek" on television and film. Its creator, Gene Roddenberry, estimates the series has earned more than \$1 billion.

Shatner, Leonard Nimoy and other veterans of the series, about to be launched into space once more in the \$32 million film "Star Trek V: The Final Frontier," have become millionaires by going "where no man has gone before."

And the secret of the success? "The funny part is none of us know," said Shatner, who has

directed the latest film as well as playing Captain James Kirk and doing his own stunts.

"It is like the cook who goes by taste rather than by recipe. We know the ingredients and we hope they work."

Shatner and his producers threw a party on the bridge of the Enterprise — actually, a \$200,000 mock-up — at Paramount studios to celebrate the completion of "Star Trek V," due to be released in this country in June and overseas in October.

The reason for the green champagne? "It is a secret drink of the mysterious Vulcans," a studio official murmured.

Shatner would not give a hint of the plot of the latest film, although he admitted that the evil Klingons are back again. "Trek-kie" tipsters say it is a space version of a wild west shootout with laser guns.

"Star Trek" has become an



MADRAS, India (R) — Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi said he plans fresh initiatives to end the Punjab crisis and to maintain the pace of economic liberalisation despite the constraint of impending general elections.

A general election must be held within 12 months. Gandhi faces his first challenge Saturday when Tamil Nadu in the south and the tribal border states Nagaland and Mizoram vote in India's last major elections before the

Gandhi plans new Punjab initiative

general elections.

Admitting that Punjab was still the major problem facing the Indian government, he told Reuters there was a perceptible change in the mood of people there from four years ago.

Even the hanging two weeks ago of Satwant Singh and Kehar Singh for the 1984 assassination of his mother had not changed the optimistic mood in Punjab, Gandhi said in an interview on board an aircraft carrying him on a four-day election campaign tour of the three states.

Political rivals have said Saturday's polls in the south and north-east, following a poor showing by his Congress (I) Party in the north last year, could be a test of his vote catching ability.

Gandhi rejected this, saying he did not see the three state assembly polls as significant for a general election. "The dynamics and issues in state elections are different from those in (national) parliamentary elections," he said on the plane towards the end of a hectic campaign in Tamil Nadu.

Sanctuary for immigrants pits church against state in Britain

LONDON (R) — A mosque and a network of "safe houses" backed by the British Council of Churches are harbouring more than 50 immigrants threatened with deportation, despite a government warning against offering illegal sanctuary.

Home Secretary Douglas Hurd told clergymen Wednesday to think carefully before giving refuge to law-breakers after police arrested Sri Lankan Viraj Mendis at a Manchester Church where he had lived for two years.

Their raid was possible because the legal right to church sanctuary was abolished in 1623.

Mendis obtained shelter while fighting to remain in Britain and claiming that he risked prosecution and possible death at home

because of his support for Tamil separatists in Sri Lanka.

His plight has focused attention on others who have gone underground with church help rather than be sent away.

Amir Kabul Khan from Pakistan moved his pregnant wife and two children into a mosque in Birmingham on New Year's day to avoid being detained by immigration officers. The family said they would stay there as long as necessary.

Khan came to Britain in 1983 as a visitor and made repeated unsuccessful attempts to legalise his status. His wife, whom he married the same year, is a legal resident as are his children.

Immigration authorities refused to allow Khan's appeals on

the grounds the marriage was purely to obtain the right to stay.

Muhammad Idrish of Birmingham's Asian Resources Centre said Mendis' seizure has not worried the Khans. "He has been married for five years with a constant fear of separation over his head. They'll stay in there as long as it takes," he said.

Home Office spokesman Bob Thomas said Khan was in no immediate danger and added: "Mr. Mendis has exhausted the entire appeals procedure. We are nowhere near that situation with Mr. Khan and while he is in the mosque we can't go in and condone the action. There are no plans to get him out."

The Council of Churches shelters 52 illegal immigrants.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

Bangladesh rail officials sacked

DHAKA (R) — Bangladesh sacked two station masters Friday after two trains screeched to a nose-to-nose halt only 500 metres from the spot where 135 people died in the country's worst rail disaster a few days earlier. Screaming passengers alerted drivers to the danger as the trains raced towards each other on the single-track line at Pubai, 24 kilometres from Dhaka. Angry passengers, joined by hundreds of villagers, ringed the stationary trains but the drivers and other crew managed to flee, witnesses said. "Two station masters have been suspended and several others are being questioned for putting up wrong signals," a Communication Ministry official told reporters. The government has asked survivors of Sunday's accident, in which nearly 1,000 people were injured, to submit evidence to a railway inquiry commission.

'No change in S. African repression'

BONN (R) — South Africa had shown some external policy movement but remained as repressive as ever in racial policies at home, an anti-apartheid church leader and a West German politician said Thursday. The West German Foreign Ministry said State Secretary Helmut Schaefer and South African Allan Boesak, president of the World Alliance of Reformed Churches, reached the conclusion in talks on developments in southern Africa. It said they agreed South Africa has shown a welcome external flexibility in last month's treaty which opened the way to independence for Namibia, "but that domestically it held firmly to its course of repression." The ministry said Schaefer stressed Bonn's condemnation of apartheid and praised Boesak's role in the fight for equality for every South African.

U.K. may train women military pilots

LONDON (R) — Britain's Royal Air Force (RAF) may start training women as pilots because of a shortage of male recruits, its chief of air staff has said. Air Chief Marshal Sir Peter Harding told the latest edition of RAF News that the role of women in the service was being examined and "studies will be undertaken to see whether they could be employed as pilots and navigators." The Defence Ministry said women would not be trained to fly combat aircraft but could pilot transport and other aircraft including helicopters. The RAF expects to tackle serious recruitment problems over the next 10 years because a drop in the birth rate will reduce the number of men of military age.

Britons see no Soviet threat

LONDON (R) — Only four per cent of Britons regard the Soviet Union as a serious threat to national security provided Mikhail Gorbachev stays in power, according to an opinion poll published in the Guardian newspaper Friday. With Gorbachev in control, the two out of three people considered the Soviet Union no real threat to Britain. However, Gorbachev's departure would mean that as many as 54 per cent would perceive something of a threat or even a serious one.

COLUMN

Michigan man to wed princess

DAVISON, Michigan (AP) — Christopher Jeffries says he will not forget his Michigan roots even after his marriage to Princess Yasmin Aga Khan. Jeffries, 38, a native of Flint, Michigan, and president of a New York real estate company, plans to marry the princess Feb. 14 at New York's Plaza Hotel. The 39-year-old princess is the daughter of the late Prince Aly Khan, spiritual leader of five million Ismaili Muslims, and the late movie star Rita Hayworth. The marriage will be the second for her and Jeffries. "I still have close connections there, ... my entire family is still there," Jeffries said of the Flint area. "I still try to eat at Whitey's (restaurant) every quarter." Jeffries' mother, Jocelyn, said she was surprised to find that her future daughter-in-law was fond of the area during a recent visit. "She thought Flint was quite charming," Jeffries said.

Prescott 'paid his dues...'

BOSTON (AP) — Prescott, a stocky Morgan Gelding horse that spent 20 years with the Boston police department, "paid his dues over and over," according to patrolman Emilio "Moe" Ciriello, the city's top police horseman. So now the easy-going horse is headed to pasture. A plot has even been reserved for the 30-year-old Prescott at the Angel View Pet Cemetery in Middleboro, said Ciriello. "He's done it all," the policeman said of the horse, adding: "Riots, strikes, parades, the marathon, busing, the Beatles, Elvis Presley, Fenway Park. He's even made the patriot's day ride to Lexington from the old North Church with Paul Revere. "But that's only half of it. Prescott made a horseman out of dozens of rookie riders. He's a clever, streetwise, all-class horse. We want him as long as we can have him, but you never know at his age."

Women complain about parlours

HONG KONG (AP) — Women in southern China have written to a Canton newspaper to urge the eradication of massage parlours that attract high-ranking cadres as well as ordinary folks with sexual services, a Hong Kong daily reported Friday. The letter to the southern daily (Nanfang Ribao) newspaper in Canton claimed visiting massage parlours had surpassed dining as the most popular form of entertainment among businessmen in the Huiyung district of Huidong County, 100 kilometres northeast of Hong Kong. News of the letter was reported in Hong Kong's Ming Pao newspaper. Senior government cadres spent public money at the rate of up to 50 yuan (\$13.40) per hour at the parlours, which offered prostitutes to customers, said the letter to the southern daily, a newspaper based in the nearby provincial capital of Canton. According to bank officials, the masseuses can become rich overnight, the newspaper said, with some women depositing thousands or tens of thousands of yuan every few days.

Fonda controls tendencies in video

NEW YORK (AP) — Jane Fonda is promoting a new exercise video that embraces her new philosophy of moderation, saying she is "striving hard to control compulsive tendencies." "In the old days I was very driven," Fonda said in an interview in the New York Times. "Now I want to enjoy things more, to add more moderation to my life." Fonda's new 65-minute video features exercises that are less strenuous than her previous tapes, in which she urged followers to "go for the burn." The new tape includes a 30-minute segment in which half of the on-screen class does high-impact aerobics and half does low-impact, giving viewers a choice. "I'm not as macho as several years before," the 51-year-old actress said. "Hard and fast is not as effective as longer workouts in moderation."

Shepherd to name hippos

MEMPHIS, Tennessee (AP) — The names of hippopotamus twins born at the city zoo will be chosen by another Memphis native and mother of twins, actress Cybill Shepherd, zoo officials say. The hippos were born in December to mother, Julia. The Memphis Zoological Society and the Commercial Appeal newspaper are sponsoring a contest to solicit the best names for the twins. Shepherd will select the final names. But contest officials say the "mummy have a hard time deciding since the contest probably will end before zoo keepers know the sex of the hippo twins."